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SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 125

MAY 4, 2008

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Bathroom Facelift

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...
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Violent Weather

Violent storms unleashed tornadoes, high winds and hail in four central states and killed seven people.

UNITED STATES...PAGE 17



Hitched?

According to several published reports, Mariah Carey has married actor Nick Cannon on Wednesday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

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Guam links up with AOL Travel online. **PAGE 5**

Guerrero resigns as CUC chief

Fitial taps ex-budget exec Muna as new executive director

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Anthony C. Guerrero has resigned as executive director of the financially troubled Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Guerrero submitted his resignation letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Friday, just hours after the governor delivered his State of the Commonwealth Address.

In the past couple of weeks, there were speculations at CUC that Fitial will terminate Guerrero as executive director.

According to the Public Information and Protocol Office, Fitial accepted Guerrero's resignation and appointed Antonio Muna, the former special assistant for the Office of Management and Budget, as new CUC executive director effective tomorrow, Monday.

See CUC on Page 4



Guerrero



ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

Visiting Creation Museum's architect, Rev. Gary Zimmerman, shows an old parchment scroll and the collection of Old Testament manuscripts after a lecture on Hebrew manuscripts, writings and preservations as well as Israel findings at the Eucon International College Thursday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Federalization bill now with Bush

The omnibus bill that extends federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas is now with President Bush and it is expected to be signed within the next 10 days.

According to a status report on S.2739, the U.S. Congress' website states that the measure, officially called the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, was presented to the President on

RELATED NEWS
GAO: Flexibility in immigration will be given NMI.
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May 1 (Friday, Saipan time).

The bill authorizes certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy, extends immigration laws to the CNMI, and

amends the Compact of Free Association. It also gives the CNMI a non-voting delegate to Congress



Bush

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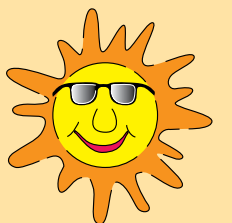
Spacecraft to make a run at the sun

By **FRANK D. ROYLANCE**
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LAUREL, Md.—So how do you send a spacecraft to the sun without broiling it to a cinder?

"We go at night," said Andrew A. Dantzler, project manager for Solar Probe, a new space science mission announced Friday by the Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab near Laurel.

See NASA on Page 4



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Around the CNMI

'Fitial's citing of increased legislative budget is unfair'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero has expressed disappointment with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's citing of the increased budget for the Legislature for 2009, saying the governor's remarks were "unfair."

Deleon Guerrero told Saipan Tribune that some of the things that Fitial pointed out during his State of the Commonwealth Address on Friday were true and correct.

However, the vice speaker said, he did not like it when the governor pointed out that the budget for the Executive Branch is going down for 2009, but the Legislatures' budget is going up.

"He [Fitial] just submitted

that [budget] to us. If the Legislature's budget is high, it is because he submitted that. That's the budget he submitted. We have not begun to clearly define what the Legislature's budget is. In a way, that's unfair!" Deleon Guerrero said.

Fitial had said that looking ahead to fiscal year 2009, the Executive Branch's budget will be reduced further from \$83 million to \$74 million.

"The Legislative Branch is allocated an increase in funding," the governor said.

Deleon Guerrero said that Fitial fixed the budget and gave it to the Legislature.

"But he [Fitial] put it in his report that 'you guys are going up.' That's so unfair. I don't like that," the vice speaker said.

With respect to CNMI Wash-

ington Representative Pete A. Tenorio's State of the Washington Office Report, Deleon Guerrero said that Tenorio has received a lot of criticisms for the pro-federalization stance he's taken.

"The minority in the 15th Legislature, which we are part of, decided to work with him instead of opposing it. So yes, we were part of that process," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he is just hoping that, once CNMI obtains a non-voting delegate in Congress, that person "should be our champion to protect our interests."

He said there was nothing new in Tenorio's report. "The State of the Commonwealth is really just about the federalization," he added.

Man in power theft gets 12-month probation

The Superior Court has imposed a 12-month probation sentence on a man who was convicted in connection with the theft of power utilities worth \$1,526.15 within a six-month period.

Associate Judge Ramona V.

Manglona sentenced Aaron Dean Tawney to one year in prison, all suspended upon his compliance with the terms and conditions of his 12-month probation.

Manglona said that among the conditions is that the 41-year-old Tawney shall pay a \$500 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, and shall keep all scheduled appointments with a probation officer.

The judge ordered the defendant to return to court for a review hearing on Oct. 28, 2008 at 9am.

"Defendant's failure to appear will result in the issuance of a bench warrant," said Manglona in the written order issued Friday.

In July 2007, the Attorney General's Office charged Tawney with theft of service and receiving stolen property.

Tawney and counsel George Anthony Long signed a plea agreement with the government. Tawney pleaded "no contest" to receiving stolen property.

A defendant pleading a "no contest" does not admit or deny criminal charges, but elects not to contest them. It is tantamount to an admission of guilty.

In her order, Manglona said the charges were theft of services of power utilities estimated at \$1,526.1 and receiving stolen Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s electric meter.

Manglona said the date of the incident and the filing of the charges occurred prior to the enactment of Public Law 15-74, the Theft of Utilities Act of 2006, which was signed into law in July 2007.

However, the judge noted, Tawney availed himself of the 90-day amnesty period by Public Law 15-74 and paid full restitution for the utility services, and the electric meter was re-

covered by CUC.

"In considering whether to accept the parties' plea agreement, this court was mindful of the dire financial state of CUC's situation and was therefore hesitant to accept a disposition which did not include any actual incarceration," she said.

However, Manglona said, both counsel for the government and Tawney represented to the court that based on their knowledge of the facts of this case and of the defendant's background, they recommended the no-jail disposition.

"Although one of the Legislature's purpose of passing Public Law 15-74 was to deter other crimes from committing thefts of utility services, they did provide for a limited amount of amnesty period that would prohibit the punishment of anyone who voluntarily came forward," she said.

Manglona said that Tawney availed himself of this mercy under the new law, and "this court found it reasonable to extend such a similar clemency upon the attorneys' recommendation."

According to the factual basis for the agreement, on or between Sept. 1 and Dec. 12, 2006, Tawney "purposely received and possessed one electric meter of another 'knowing it had been stolen, or having reasonable cause to believe under all of the circumstances that it had probably been stolen.'"

On Aug. 16 and 22, 2007, Tawney made payments to CUC in the amount of \$30 and \$1,600, paying in full the \$1,526.15 as charged.

The payments were made within the 90-day amnesty period provided by House Bill 15-69, which was signed into law in July 2007. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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GAO: Flexibility in immigration will be given NMI

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

The Government Accountability Office has issued its report on the pending legislation that would apply U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI with a transition period.

According to the GAO study, the pending legislation applies U.S. immigration law to the CNMI and provides federal agencies some flexibility on preserving the CNMI's access to workers, tourists, and foreign investors as it transitions to a federal system.

"During the transition period, foreign workers may be admitted to the CNMI through exemptions from caps that restrict the number of U.S. visas for nonimmigrant workers. Workers not otherwise eligible under federal law may be admitted through a CNMI-only permit program, which may be extended indefinitely for up to five years at a time," the GAO reported.

It said that current workers who do not obtain U.S. immigration status may continue to live and work in the CNMI for a limited time. "During and after the transition period, CNMI

employers also can petition for nonimmigrant and employment-based permanent immigration status for workers under the same procedures as other U.S. employers."

The GAO said that access to foreign workers in low-skill jobs will be limited after the end of the transition period in 2013 or 2014 and after any extensions of the CNMI-only permit program "because the demand for certain U.S. nonimmigrant worker visas recently has exceeded the supply and because no nonimmigrant visas are available for workers in continuous low-skill positions."

The GAO reported that while fees for the CNMI-only work permit will be determined by federal regulations and are unknown, the current fees for U.S. foreign worker permits that would apply after the end of the transition period and any extensions will be higher than the CNMI's current foreign worker permit fees.

The report added that the pending legislation establishes a joint visa waiver program by adding the CNMI to an existing Guam visa waiver program.

"The program exempts tourism and business visitors from

certain countries to the CNMI and Guam from the standard U.S. visa documentation requirements," the GAO stated.

Citizens of countries not included in the CNMI-Guam or other U.S. visa waiver programs may apply for U.S. visitor visas, which require in-person applications and higher fees than the CNMI currently assesses. Changes in tourists' access to the CNMI will depend on the countries included in the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program.

Until the joint program's implementing regulations are established, GAO cannot determine whether the program will be more or less restrictive than the current CNMI and Guam waiver programs.

The GAO report concluded that after federal immigration law applies, new CNMI foreign investors must meet federal law's more stringent investment requirements to obtain immigrant investor status, which allows investors to petition for

U.S. permanent resident status that is currently unavailable in the CNMI.

"New investors also could apply for nonimmigrant treaty investor status. In addition,

the pending legislation allows current CNMI foreign investors to convert to CNMI-only nonimmigrant treaty investors during the transition period," the report states.

Fitial looking to use federal CIP funds for college needs

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he is exploring a plan to use federal CIP funds so as to provide the needed operational funds for the Northern Marianas College.

In his State of Commonwealth Address on Friday at the Multi-Purpose Center, Fitial said, "We are determined to help the college maintain its certification. ... I am exploring a plan to leverage federal CIP funds so as to provide the needed operational funds for the college."



Fitial

proposes to withhold another \$750,000 from the Kalabera Cave development project and transfer those funds to NMC.

According to Reyes, these two projects constitute absolutely vital destination enhancement projects that would help boost the tourism industry by provid-

ing additional attractions and activities for visiting tourists. Reyes says the administration firmly believes that the CNMI must improve as a tourist destination to create demand for travel and support increased flight capacity into the islands.

On Friday, Fitial said that, "During the past year, the college played a leading role in establishing the strategic workforce action team aimed at bringing together the agencies committed to providing more, and better, training for our young people ready to enter the workforce" and that he is looking into exploring a plan to pull federal CIP funds to help provide for the college's operational needs.

Fitial also dedicated \$380,000 to NMC to fund critical staff requirements and renovation and repairs.

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CUC chief steps down from his post

From Page 1

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. quoted Guerrero in a statement as thanking the governor for the opportunity to serve the administration and the CNMI people.

"Your steadfastness to do what is right for the people and the CNMI's future is very admirable. I wish you and your administration continued success during these difficult and challenging times," the outgoing

executive director told Fitial in his letter.

The administration tapped Guerrero in January 2006 to serve as acting executive director. Eight months later, the governor made him permanent executive director.

Guerrero joined the utility agency on Dec. 15, 2003, as a contract officer.

Reyes, in the statement issued Friday, said that Muna would assume the CUC post effective Monday in order to stabilize the

troubled public utility and restore it back to sound financial health.

Fitial told Muna in a letter that he has high confidence in his ability to successfully resolve the many pressing challenges besetting the troubled public utilities agency.

"I look forward to working closely with you to address the needs of the utility and restore its solvent financial status," said the governor.

In a memo to government agencies and department heads,

the chief executive urged all agencies to support Muna's efforts to resolve CUC's pressing challenges and extend their full cooperation as Muna "takes on this important responsibility for the Commonwealth."

Fitial said he admires Muna for his strict financial discipline.

He cited Muna's successful rehabilitation of the Bank of Saipan as evidence of his ability to reverse a bad situation and restore a troubled organization back to sound financial health.

Muna previously served as a receiver for the rehabilitated bank.

Muna said he hopes that Guerrero will serve in some transitional capacity over the next 30 days to allow for continuity and a smooth transfer of duties and responsibilities.

"I thank Anthony Guerrero for his faithful service and contributions," said Muna in the press statement.

Muna had resigned as budget official for the Fitial administration in December 2007, but

stayed on as a financial adviser to the governor.

He then told the media that he will return to private practice. He said he will, however, serve as the governor's financial consultant on a contractual basis.

Muna had reportedly taken a lot of heat over drastic cost-cutting measures implemented by the Fitial administration. Such measures included mass layoffs, austerity Fridays, and the suspension of retirement contributions.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH ADDRESS

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivers his state of the Commonwealth address as Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and CNMI Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio listen at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial massages his eyes as CNMI Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio delivers the State of the Washington Office Report.

President Bush gets federalization measure

From Page 1

The bill was sponsored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and introduced on March 10, 2008. It passed the U.S. Senate on April 10, 2008, on a vote of 91 - 4.

The U.S. House passed it on April 29, 2008, on a vote of 291 - 117, and was cleared for the White House that same day.

It was presented to President Bush on May 1, 2008.

The Fitial administration and

the private sector have warned that the bill would further hurt the CNMI's struggling economy. They believe that a federalized immigration system would make it difficult for the CNMI to hire alien workers to fill jobs on the islands. They also fear the CNMI will lose its edge as a destination for Russian and Chinese tourists.

Proponents of the immigration measure had hailed the passage of the bill.

Local business groups

have committed to working with the administration and the federal government in the education effort and in the drafting the implementing rules and regulations.

"We need to think as practically as possible about this, and business people can help think things through. We've got a lot of work ahead of us," said Hotel Association of the NMI chair Lynn Knight in a previous interview. (*Saipan Tribune*)

NASA plans to send spacecraft to the sun

From Page 1

That's been the running joke around the lab, Dantzler said. But APL scientists and engineers are perfectly serious about the \$750 million NASA-funded mission—the first to fly scientific instruments through the sun's million-degree corona, and to within 4.1 million miles of its roiling surface.

Launch is planned for 2015, with the craft's first solar flyby just three months later—thanks to a boost from the Sun's gravity.

If it succeeds, Solar Probe will fulfill a dream that solar scientists have struggled with for half a century, and could solve critical mysteries about how the sun works, and how that affects the Earth and everything on it.

"Fifty years ago it was brought up as one of the most important things you could do in heliophysics," Dantzler said. Understanding how the sun affects the Earth without understanding the sun's corona is like trying to predict hurricanes without factoring in the ocean. "A hurricane model without the ocean is almost useless," he said.

Solar physicists want this mission to help them answer two of their most vexing questions:

- How temperatures in the corona—the sun's outermost atmosphere—can reach more than a million degrees centigrade, while those down on the surface are only around 6,000 degrees.

- How the solar wind, which is not very strong near the sun's surface, is accelerated to several million miles per hour as it moves out of the corona and across the solar system.

"The only way we can try to answer this is to send a spacecraft into the environment which will actually measure those particles and nail it," said Madhulika Guhathakurta, program scientist for NASA's Living With a Star program.

We need to know, she said, "because we live in the outer atmosphere of the sun, and this environment couples with the Earth's magnetosphere and ionosphere to create space weather, and that is becoming very important."

Solar storms unleash radiation, electrical and magnetic energy on and around the Earth that can knock out satellites, threaten humans in space or flying polar air routes, and affect utility grids on the ground.

Solar Probe's instruments will measure high-energy protons and electrons in the sun's "atmosphere," as well as the strength and direction of its magnetic field, and the amount of dust swirling around it.

Three decades of earlier studies reached the same basic conclusion. Sending a probe into the solar corona—that shimmering halo of glowing gas that becomes visible around the sun during total eclipses—was technically too difficult, too expensive, or both.

In 2005, APL tried again, but its proposal to NASA contained two deal-killers.

It would have required a "radioisotope thermoelectric generator," RTG, to supply electrical power. An RTG's energy comes from heat produced by a decaying bit of plutonium 238. On past missions, that design has drawn protests from people who feared a launch accident.

The mission also carried a prohibitive price tag of \$1.2 billion.

Worse, from a scientific standpoint, it would have given scientists just one or two swings through the corona. "That's really putting all your eggs in one basket, and that's a lot of eggs," Dantzler said. "So we took another look at the study."

First, APL ditched the plutonium-powered generator. Should a mission to the sun not use solar energy for electrical power?

The answer isn't simple. In fact, "It's counterintuitive," Dantzler said.

It turns out that to reach the sun, the original mission would swing by Jupiter first—too far from the sun for solar panels to do the job.

That route seems even more counterintuitive. What could be easier than flying—falling, really—into the sun's gravitational pull?

"It's not that easy," Dantzler said.

In order to get close to the sun and fly over its poles, where the solar physicists want to be, the craft would need an enormous amount of energy, he said. First it would have to shed the momentum it inherited at launch from the Earth's speed around the sun. It would need more to climb above the plane of the Earth's orbit, and up, over the sun's pole.

The best place to get all that energy free of charge is to swing by Jupiter and gather momentum from its gravitational pull. But with the plutonium generator and solar panels both ruled out, APL decided to abandon its plan for a polar solar orbit.

Instead, "we would go around the equator," Dantzler said.

That had its own benefits—giving scientists more opportunities—24 in all—to fly through the corona at speeds up to 125 miles per second.

And by flying "downhill"—almost straight down the sun's gravity "well"—the spacecraft makes its first approach to the sun just three months after launch. That change also shortened the mission from 10 years to seven, further cutting total costs.

After rounding the sun, Solar Probe will soar back out as far as Venus's orbit, and use seven such Venus flybys to shrink its orbit and edge closer to the sun.

But buzzing the sun repeatedly demands a tough spacecraft. Solar Probe—9-feet long and 1,000 pounds—will need to shield its instruments and communications gear from temperatures up to 2,600 degrees Fahrenheit.

APL's designers are working on a 6-inch-thick solar shield made of advanced carbon-carbon foam. It must always be pointed toward the sun, keeping the craft's camera and sensors at room temperature.

Guam links up with AOL Travel online

TUMON, Guam—The Guam Visitors Bureau's board chair, David Tydingco, has confirmed GVB's participation in AOL Travel's online promotion of the 25th Annual National Tourism Week. The theme of this year's celebration is "Discover Great American Traditions" and it encourages travel to American destinations while highlighting the role that tourism plays in discovering the special attractions and interesting facts about

each destination.

In preparation of celebrating National Tourism Week in America, May 10 – 18, the Travel Industry Association (TIA), who have joined AOL Travel in presenting the promotion, advised its members of the opportunity to participate in the free promotion designed to celebrate travel and tourism.

Guam will join other U.S. destinations participating in the

promotion by having their message and link to the GVB website posted on AOL Travel and seen by millions of AOL users over the course of the promotion. The AOL Travel link goes live on May 1 along with the completed AOL-Tourism Week web pages.

As part of the National Tourism Week promotion, AOL Travel has created nine themed galleries that create fantastic opportunities to

learn more about Guam and the US. The themes are, Food; Natural Wonders; American Heritage; Weird & Wacky Local Landmarks; Theme Parks; Zoos & Aquariums; Boardwalks; Museums; and Arts & Culture. Each participating destination, including Guam, was invited to submit a short story about a unique attraction or site that corresponds to one of the galleries above. Each of the nine galleries will

also include exciting photos of each featured destination.

Visitors to AOL Travel can click on the links provided for each destination to visit their website and learn more about each location. The destination links will only be active through May 18; although the AOL Travel—National Tourism Week pages will remain active until further notice.

Throughout National Tourism Week, AOL Travel will

rotate the stories and photos featured in the nine galleries, so web surfers are encouraged to continue visiting AOL Travel throughout the nine-day celebration.

Guam and the GVB are very excited to be joining our nation, TIA, and AOL Travel in this celebration of tourism that features the many unique destinations, including Guam, that visitors can experience when visiting the USA. **(GVB)**

MVA, JSTA, KTAS join hands in Garapan cleanup

The Marianas Visitors Authority, along with its tourism industry partners Japan Travel Association, Korean Tour Association of Saipan and MVA members participated in the Tourism Industry Trash Cleanup held April 29, 2008.

Over 170 members, travel partners and volunteers came out to American Memorial Park at 7:30am, volunteering their time by helping out in the cleanup. The groups were divided into segments in the Garapan Tourist District (Paseo de Marianas) sweeping the entire area for trash. From there the cleanup then headed down toward the roadside in front of ABC store cleared it and into the Carolinian Ut where they diverted to the beachfront side area

and picked up more trash. The cleanup ended at the American Memorial Park (pavilion).

The entire group collected over 600 lbs of trash, debris, bottles and other trash items. The MVA is very grateful for the people who came out and helped out during the trash cleanup. The Tourism Industry Trash Cleanup was part of the MVA's Tourism Month event supporting the beautification efforts in preparation for the golden week and for our tourist. **(MVA)**

The Marianas Visitors Authority, along with its tourism industry partners Japan Travel Association, Korean Tour Association of Saipan and MVA members, pose for a souvenir picture after the cleanup. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 125

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Secular and antidemocratic

In many countries where elections and Islam overlap, religious political parties are suspected—often rightly—of trying to use the democratic system to advance an illiberal agenda. Turkey, the most advanced democracy in the Muslim world, has the opposite problem. Its mildly religious ruling party has led the way in introducing progressive political and economic reforms and preparing the country for membership in the European Union. Its secular opposition, meanwhile, has repeatedly resorted to antidemocratic tactics.

Last year the Turkish army, which sees itself as the ultimate guardian of Turkey's secular constitution, tried to stop the Justice and Development Party (AKP) from electing its candidate for president by posting a threatening statement on its Web site. This "e-coup" led to a ruling by the Constitutional Court against the AKP—and then a general election that the party won decisively over secular parties that had abetted and cheered the court ruling. Abdullah Gul, a moderate and pro-Western politician, duly became president.

Rather than being chastened by this reversal, the secular establishment is attempting an even more radical maneuver. Egged on once again by opposition political parties, a state prosecutor filed a case in March seeking to ban the AKP and 70 of its members, including Gul and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on charges of violating the constitution. The case is based in large part on the party's move to lift a ban on the wearing of head scarves by women in Turkish universities, a highly charged if largely symbolic domestic issue. The prosecution mainly serves to reveal the weakness of the constitution, which makes it far too easy for courts to outlaw political parties on flimsy grounds.

A proper response to the lawsuit would be for Erdogan to press forward with his liberal reforms, including constitutional amendments that would change the criteria for banning political parties. But while the government has introduced legislation to change the constitution's notorious criminalization of speech "insulting Turkishness," it has been slow to react to the threat of banishment. The result may well be months of litigation followed by a ruling that plunges the political system into chaos.

The European Union has sent a clear message about the danger of undermining democracy. Javier Solana, its foreign policy chief, said that banning a party is "not something normal" and that "the consequences would be very grave" for Turkey's relations with Europe. Unfortunately the Bush administration has not been nearly so clear. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said last month that the case was "a matter ... for Turks to decide," adding only the "hope that this will be decided within Turkey's secular democratic context and by its secular democratic principles"—whatever that means. In fact, the administration ought to make it plain that banning the AKP would cause serious damage to U.S.-Turkish relations. The United States has a vital interest in the success of Turkish democracy—and of the moderate Islamic party that now leads it.

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Grand old party animal

There's an emotional ceremony every month in which 3,500 newly naturalized citizens pledge their loyalty to the United States, and it really feels like they've joined a community of shared values, goals and purpose. Then, as soon as they pass through the gates of the Los Angeles County fairgrounds and enter the parking lot, they are charged from the right by Republicans and from the left by Democrats, begging them to register to vote. It is a bit like kissing the bride and being told your new father-in-law is a Capulet and your mother-in-law's a Montague and they've each registered you for a Glock.

Signing up new citizens is a huge battleground because, according to a study released this week, immigrants and their kids will make up 29 percent of potential voters in California by 2012. To see how this fight is going down, I spent Wednesday with volunteers recruiting new citizens to join the GOP. They were a happy bunch, 27 well-dressed people sitting at a table covered with a cloth decorated with a subtle pattern of the firefighters raising a flag at ground zero. They were all smiles and pamphlets and life-size cutouts of President Bush and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as the Terminator. It made sense that it looked like a boy's birthday party because, if you think about it, the two naturalization ceremonies that day were the best voter-registering opportunity around until 7,000 people born on the same day throw a joint 18th birthday party.

As soon as I arrived, I was besieged by controversy. The Democrats, who sat 10 feet away at a table covered with no cloth, had accused my new Republican friends of being overly helpful in filling out the registration forms for these new voters—most notably the box for party affiliation. Sadly, the one person uniquely qualified to fairly resolve an intraparty dispute had left the GOP table just minutes before: Ken Starr's wife, Alice.

When I asked for advice on how to persuade new citizens to join the party, I was told that I shouldn't have bothered bringing Milton Friedman's "Capitalism and Freedom" because I wasn't going to have time to quote from it, getting only about two minutes with each potential recruit. My biggest challenge, I was told, was that a lot of people from Latin America were going to think that "democracy" and "Democratic Party" were synonymous. And there might be other misguided ideas too, warned Bishop Juan Carlos Mendez from Centro Cristiano Betel in South Gate: "The perception is that only rich people are in the Republican Party. It's not true." It was my job to inform them that the Republican Party is also for people who want to be rich. I found Mendez's party-of-the-poor speech slightly less convincing when he told me that he brought 10 teenagers from his church and that the party paid them \$6 for each person they registered.

I had lots of good suggestions, like hiding the life-size cutout of Bush. "I think you're right," said Linda Boyd, the chairwoman of the L.A. County Republicans and, more impressive in terms of party loyalty, the mother of a girl named Reagan. I also suggested

By JOEL STEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.



we get some kind of food to bribe people with, a technique I noticed was very effective at the Iowa caucuses. "We've tried several different gimmicks," Boyd told me. "We've had lemonade and balloons for the kids. We're shameless." We looked through the coolers Boyd bought that morning for the volunteers and found one half-eaten box of chocolate chip cookies.

I was armed with a clipboard with a sticker on the back that read, "Los Republicanos Registrarse Aqui," which going by the Spanish I learned from "Sesame Street," means "The Republicans 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12." Shirley Baldwin, who has volunteered at naturalization ceremonies 10 times, told me to congratulate everyone walking by and make eye contact. After 10 minutes of pure failure, I finally locked eyes with Guadalupe Anguiano, who agreed to come by and fill out the forms for her blind mother. The daughter told me I was doing a fine job, but when it came time to fill in the bubble indicating party affiliation, she chose the Green Party. I had not only failed the GOP, I had failed phenomenally. "You did fine," Baldwin said. "You got her to be a part of the American system. Then it's up to the candidates." The Obama-Clinton fight really is making these Republicans cocky.

Next, I lured Michaeline Wilkins to the table. She was a harder sell, even after I gave her a cookie. "Tell me about Rush Limbaugh," she said. I explained that Rush knew a lot about recreational drugs, an issue Democrats usually get all the credit for. Then stupid Bishop Mendez started talking about how the Republicans are the party of the poor. I countered that it was actually the party of the filthy rich—people she wanted to be around. I told her that Republican country clubs are way better than Democratic ones. "I don't think Republicans are the party of poor people," she said to Mendez. "That would be a bad thing." She finished her cookie and filled in the GOP bubble.

By the end of the day, we'd registered about 300 people. And although I didn't get into any deep philosophical debates about libertarian principles, unless you count the Rush Limbaugh thing, I felt good about registering new citizens to vote. Because even though they were being bombarded at a celebratory moment when they were confused and vulnerable, they got to see how vibrant the democracy they signed up for really is. In America, their vote is worth \$6 and a cookie.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why we volunteer

By **DAVID T. LEVINSON**
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Bill Clinton wrote a whole book about it. Oprah Winfrey turned it into an eight-week prime-time TV competition. And even President Bush is in on the act, declaring this National Volunteer Week.

Volunteerism—giving and helping and donating time and energy—is all the rage. And that’s a wonderful thing. I think.

I run a large annual event called Big Sunday, and over the years have worked with thousands of volunteers. Last year, for instance, about 50,000 of them pitched in, helping in all kinds of amazing ways. Certainly my organization has benefited from all this new volunteer chic.

That said, things can get sticky when volunteering becomes the “in” thing to do—like going to Kauai. Suddenly it’s an experience to be marked with photos of houses built or tallies of meals served, and rewarded with a satisfying emotional payoff.

“I want,” one prospective volunteer told me, “to go to a poor person’s house and help at an extreme makeover.” Well, so would I. But “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” is a TV show that involves months of preparation and many thousands of dollars, not to mention soaring music, clever editing and close-ups of crying beneficiaries. I can do makeovers, some more extreme

than others. And I can always argue why they’re worth doing. But I can’t guarantee the Kodak moment.

The homeless man muttered at his cheeseburger. “What is he trying to tell us?” another volunteer asked hopefully, looking for some deeper truth. But we were in a shelter, not a Robin Williams movie, and the man was only, I think, telling us that he was schizophrenic. It doesn’t mean the burger—or the man—wasn’t worth serving.

A few years back, a volunteer screamed at me because she couldn’t find a nearby parking space. “I’m sorry,” I said, “but the turnout has been much larger than we expected. Would you mind parking a few blocks away?” Yes, actually, she would. “It’s wonderful,” I continued, still trying, “because now we can help so many more kids!” “This is terrible!” she responded, furious, as if she’d pulled up at The Ritz and there was no valet. “And I drove all the way from the Valley!”

About this time last year, I got a call from a caseworker at a home for people with AIDS. He’d just heard of Big Sunday and was hoping that, at this crazed eleventh hour, we could muster some people to come by, visit the residents, maybe serve brunch.

So I called some friends—a middle-aged Jewish guy, an African American schoolteacher, strangers to each other—and asked if they’d help. Sure, they said. Then two women from a church across town e-mailed, apologetic for being so last minute, and they kindly agreed to go too. Great. They divvied up the food buying. Wonderful. This project was so easy.

Until the home’s address didn’t appear on MapQuest. The ragtag quartet eventually found it, but the weekend staffers answering the door knew nothing about any brunch and were suspicious of these so-called volunteers loaded down with eggs and pastry. They talked their way in—only to find indifferent residents. Ever hopeful, they kept calling me to get advice, offer updates or commiserate; my heart sank every time my phone rang. This was not going the way it was supposed to.

But these intrepid volunteers somehow coaxed one resident out of her room. And did, indeed, serve her brunch. I know this because the next day, my schoolteacher friend forwarded me an e-mail from her that said: “I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciated you and your friends’ hospitality. I haven’t had that much fun and laughter in a long time. And please let me know if you ever need my help.”

In a big weekend of big numbers and big events, this was the smallest of moments. There are no statistics to mark it. No before-and-after pictures.

Yet it reminded me why I do this. Of course, volunteering is wonderful. And sure, volunteers deserve to get their own special week. But in the end, the reason I love working with volunteers—and continue to year after year—is finding those people who are looking only for what they can give.

Levinson is the founder and executive director of Big Sunday, which is this weekend.

Ideology’s rude return

By **ROBERT KAGAN**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Ideology matters again. The big development of recent years is the rise not only of great powers but also of the great-power autocracies of Russia and China. True realism about the international scene begins with understanding how this unanticipated shift will shape our world.

Many believe that when Chinese and Russian leaders stopped believing in communism, they stopped believing in anything. They had become pragmatists, pursuing their own and their nation’s interests. But Chinese and Russian rulers, like past rulers of autocracies, do have a set of beliefs that guide their domestic and foreign policies. They believe in the virtues of strong central government and disdain the weaknesses of the democratic system. They believe strong rule at home is necessary if their nations are to be respected in the world. Chinese and Russian leaders are not just autocrats. They believe in autocracy.

And why shouldn’t they? In Russia and China, growing national wealth and autocracy have proved compatible, contrary to predictions in the liberal West. Moscow and Beijing have figured out how to permit open economic activity while suppressing political activity. People making money will keep their noses out of politics, especially if they know their noses will be cut off if they don’t. New wealth gives autocracies a greater ability to control information—to monopolize television stations and control Internet traffic, for instance—often with the assistance of foreign corporations eager to do business with them.

In the long run, rising prosperity may produce political liberalism, but how long is the long run? It may be too long to have strategic or geopolitical relevance.

In the meantime, the power and durability of these autocracies will shape the international system. The world is not about to embark on a new ideological struggle of the sort that dominated the Cold War. But the new era, rather than being a time of common values and shared interests, will be one of growing tensions and sometimes confrontation between the forces of democracy and those of autocracy.

If autocracies have their own set of beliefs, they also have their own set of interests. China’s and Russia’s rulers are pragmatic chiefly in protecting their continued rule. Their interest in self-preservation shapes their approach to foreign policy.

Russia is a good example of how a nation’s governance affects its relations with the world. A democratizing Russia, and even Mikhail Gorbachev’s democratizing Soviet Union, took a fairly benign view of NATO and tended to have good relations with neighbors that were treading the same path toward democracy. But Vladimir Putin regards NATO as a hostile entity, calls its enlargement “a serious provocation” and asks “against whom is this expansion intended?” Yet NATO is less provocative and threatening toward Moscow today than it was in Gorbachev’s time.

So what is it that Putin fears about NATO? It is not the military power. It is the democracy.

The post-Cold War world looks different from autocratic Beijing and Moscow than it does from democratic Washington, London, Paris, Berlin or Brussels. The “color revolutions” in Georgia and Ukraine, so celebrated in the West, worried Putin because they checked his regional ambitions and because he feared their examples could be repeated in Russia. Even today he warns against “jackals” in Russia who “got a crash course from foreign experts, got trained in neighboring republics and will try here now.”

American and European policymakers say they want Russia and China to integrate into the international liberal order, but it is not surprising if Russian and Chinese leaders are wary. Can autocrats enter the liberal international order without succumbing to the forces of liberalism?

Afraid of the answer, the autocracies are understandably pushing back, with some effect. Autocracy is making a comeback. The modern liberal mind at “the end of history” has trouble understanding the enduring appeal of autocracy in this globalized world. But changes in the ideological complexion of the most influential world powers have always had some effect on the choices made by leaders of smaller nations. Fascism was in vogue in Latin America in the 1930s and ‘40s partly because it seemed successful in Italy, Germany and Spain. The rising power of democracies in the last years of the Cold War, culminating in communism’s collapse after 1989, contributed to the global wave of democratization. The rise of two powerful autocracies may shift the balance back again.

Russia’s foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, welcomes the return of ideological competition. “For the first time in many years,” he boasts, “a real competitive environment has emerged on the market of ideas” between different “value systems and development models.” And the good news, from the Kremlin’s perspective, is that “the West is losing its monopoly on the globalization process.”

All this comes as an unwelcome surprise to a democratic world that believed such competition ended when the Berlin Wall fell. It’s time to wake up from the dream.

Robert Kagan is a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His latest book is The Return of History and the End of Dreams.

How to spend your stimulus check

By **ANDREW CARROLL**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Starting this week, more than 100 million Americans will receive checks from the federal government as part of a bipartisan initiative to stimulate the economy. Savvy retailers have been promoting special “tax rebate” sales, car discounts, summer trips, and just about everything else that can be pitched, marketed or sold — all hoping to capitalize on the billions the U.S. Treasury is sending out to qualifying taxpayers.

But there’s another option for spending the money that represents one of the best ways we can help this nation: Donate it to charitable organizations supporting our troops and their families.

This proposal is one that Americans all across the political spectrum should enthusiastically embrace. Many who oppose the war have criticized the Bush administration for not calling on Americans to sacrifice more to assist our men and women in uniform. Well, why wait for the president to ask? Let’s just do it.

Those who advocated invading Iraq or who support staying there, particularly conservative talk show hosts and commentators, have

expressed the need to show our troops that we’re behind them. The stimulus checks present a perfect opportunity for citizens, pro-war or not, to give to worthy military- and veteran-related charities — and to persuade others to do the same.

Congregations, civic organizations, fraternities, sororities and other groups could pool their money and adopt a local base, military hospital, Veterans Affairs medical center or homeless shelter for veterans. Now is the time to say, “What can we do to help?”

Americans nationwide have contributed time and money, but many of these individuals are themselves veterans or the family members of troops. They give because they are all too familiar with the hardships of military life. It is critical that those of us who are not a part of this community demonstrate our support as well.

There are countless ways to help our troops, from sending phone cards and care packages overseas to building homes for disabled veterans and providing scholarships for the children of service members killed in action.

The American Institute of Philanthropy, a nonpartisan organization that reports on how efficiently charities dispense their funds, has compiled an excellent list of first-rate nonprofits, including the Fisher

House Foundation, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, Army Emergency Relief, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the National Military Family Association. Many others can easily be found online.

About the same number of U.S. service members are fighting overseas today as were five years ago, when their heroism was regularly featured in the news. Today, though, when many soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors are on their third or fourth deployments, and the burden on them and their loved ones has become even greater, our country seems increasingly apathetic about the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.






Let’s remind our troops and their families, through a surge in giving, that we have not forgotten their sacrifice. If even a tiny percentage of Americans make donations, millions of dollars could be raised. Bumper stickers and lapel pins are not enough. We cannot merely tell these extraordinary men and women how much we owe them for their service. It is time to show them.

The writer founded the Legacy Project at www.warletters.com and has edited the books War Letters, Behind the Lines and Operation Homecoming.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

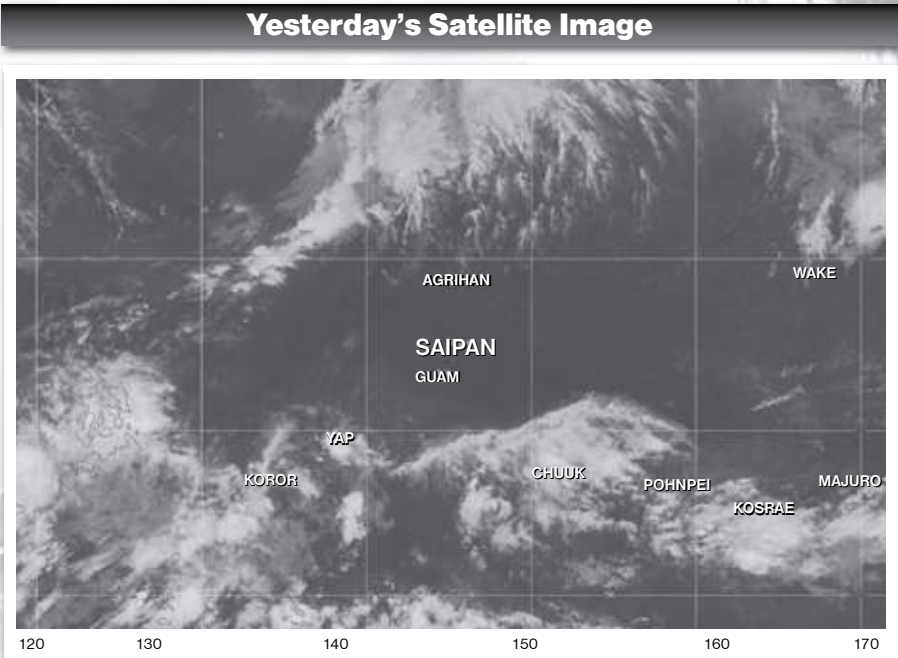
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲89 ▼79
Palau	T'Storms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	T'Storms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	T'Storms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▼74
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	T'Storms	▲82 ▼74

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲64 ▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲83 ▼57
Hong Kong	T'Storms	▲86 ▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼72
London	Showers	▲68 ▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲70 ▼55
Manila	T'Storms	▲90 ▼79
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲66 ▼52
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼69
New York	Showers	▲61 ▼52
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼58
Paris	Cloudy	▲72 ▼57
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼58
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲74 ▼54
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲66 ▼43
San Francisco	Sunny	▲65 ▼50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲68 ▼50
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲73 ▼60
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲69 ▼54

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
12:13AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
5:58AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:51PM Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
7:25PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts southwestward across the discussion area from 25N141 E to 22N135E, then continues as a stationary front to 21N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along and up to 250 miles north of the cold front. Convergent west winds south of the stationary front are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 70 miles of a line from 18N130E to 21N135E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 6N130E to a weak circulation centered south of Yap near 6N140E, then southeastward to end at EQ147E. West winds converging south of the trough axis are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Koror within 60 miles of a line from 3N130E to 6N134E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation are occurring over Yap but east of Koror in an area bounded by a line from 10N134E to 6N135E to 2N140E to 10N140E back to 10N134E. A nearly stationary front curves eastward from 25N166E to 24N174E to beyond 25N at 180. Low-level convergence near the front is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Wake island north of a line from 21N167E to 24N180E. Trade-wind convergence is creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in a broad area including Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states within 125 miles of a line from 7N146E to 8N155E to 6N158E to 3N166E to 5N175E. This area also includes Ebon and Butaritari Atolls.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:52AM	6:35PM	Today	4:21AM	5:16PM
Monday	5:52AM	6:36PM	Monday	5:08AM	6:20PM
Tuesday	5:51AM	6:36PM	Tuesday	6:01AM	7:28PM
Wednesday	5:51AM	6:36PM	Wednesday	7:00AM	8:37PM
Thursday	5:51AM	6:36PM	Thursday	8:04AM	9:44PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am	11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am	11:35am 3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 078	8:40am	2:00pm Daily via Nagoya	NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm Daily	NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
NW 083	4:20pm	7:10pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:40am	11:25am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila			Manila-Saipan		
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm 6	CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm 6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm 3	CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul			Seoul-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm 2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1 7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm 2,7
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1 6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			Guanzhou-Saipan		
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am 2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong			Hongkong-Guam		
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota			Rota-Guam		
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Good Housekeeping

Freshening up bathrooms

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Admit it: You're thinking about a facelift.

You've noticed the little lines forming here, darkened areas emerging there. Features once fresh and sparkling are looking worn and dull. When you switch on the light, it's all too clear that

likely to bring the best return on investment of anything you can do to a house.

"People typically assign value to a property based on what the bathrooms and kitchen look like," says Donna Evers of Evers & Co., a Washington realty company. A dreary, outdated bathroom can be a deal-breaker. Other big-ticket items, such as the furnace and water heater, don't receive attention until the house inspector shows up, she says. By that time, the buyers have already fallen in love with the place.

But bathroom renovations get costly fast. In the south Atlantic region, for example, the average price of a midrange bathroom remodel in 2007 was \$14,445, according to Remodeling magazine. But a few nips and tucks costing far less can go a long way to refreshing a bath.

Anything you can do to make the room feel fresh and new can make a difference, says Arlington, Va., designer Melissa Broffman. "Simply switch out an outdated fixture or pop in a fresh shower curtain. The change doesn't have to break the budget."

Los Angeles designer Lytel Young is host of HGTV's "Save My Bath." "There are three important things in a bathroom,"

things are slipping over the hill. No need to feel embarrassed. There's nothing wrong with wishing for a mini makeover—especially when you're talking about your bathroom.

It is a maxim among real estate agents that improvements to bathrooms and kitchens are



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A fresh coat of paint and new lighting are easy improvements that have an immediate impact on freshening up a bathroom.

DESIGNER-FAVORITE UPGRADES

- Skylights.
- Heated flooring or towel warmer.
- A spa-like shower for two with a bench and dual shower heads.
- New tile on walls and floors.
- A rain head or body spray shower nozzle from Dornbracht.
- Anything from Ann Sacks, from tiles to accessories.

Young says. "Clean, simple and orderly. That's the key for every budget, whether it's \$500

or \$40,000."

A fresh coat of paint and new lighting are easy improvements

Designers like these colors

- Sherwin-Williams Organza: a soft peach shade flattering to most everyone.
- C2's Oxygen: a subtle and crisp blue.
- Sherwin-Williams Romaine: a fresh and vibrant green.
- Sherwin-Williams Interesting Aqua: a soothing blue-gray.
- Farrow & Ball's Brinjal: a rich aubergine to add drama in a powder room.
- Benjamin Moore's Beach Glass: a grounding greenish-gray.

that have an immediate impact, he says. A combination of natural and artificial light is optimal, Young says. But for bathrooms without windows, sconces on both sides of a mirror plus an overhead fixture on a dimmer will do the job.

Evers' recipe for a quick fix: Take a few hours or hire a handyman to re-caulk around the tub and shower. Replace dated, inadequate light fixtures. Rip out the old-fashioned medicine cabinet ("they holler outdated at you, plus they're not big enough") and replace it with a mirror as large as you can make it. ("It will double the size of the bathroom visually.")

If you're not going to do a full remodel, be careful about what you choose and how much you spend, cautions Herbert Stanwood, senior project designer in the kitchen and bath division at

Tips for making over your bathroom

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

- Don't use wallpaper or silk window treatments in a small or poorly ventilated bathroom.
- Oversize whirlpool tubs are increasingly outdated. Consider a deep soaking tub instead.
- When it comes to tile, go conservative. Busy patterns or trendy colors will look dated in a few years.
- Choose tiles that are "through-body ceramic," meaning the color runs through the entire tile. In the event of chipping, the color will remain consistent.
- Avoid fluorescent lighting, which casts a harsh, unflattering light. Better to use incandescent lighting from a variety of sources.
- Don't buy a pedestal sink if you lack storage space.
- Don't install a vessel sink in a master bathroom. Put one in a powder room instead.
- Light-reflective polished chrome fixtures make a bathroom look bigger.
- Wallpaper makes a dramatic statement in powder rooms.

Case Design in Bethesda, Md. To save money, you might decide to keep an old tub and tile that are still in pretty good shape. But remember that those older elements can suddenly appear much more tired next to a new vanity, countertop, mirror and lights.

If you're concerned about payback, a chorus of experts advises, be conservative in your choices. "Don't do anything that's really trendy or oddly shaped," Young says. "Two years from now you're going to look at it and say, 'What was I thinking?'"

You may adore turquoise and tangerine, but resist the urge to express it through bathroom tiles. Stick with a neutral base and bring in color preferences through towels and accessories that can be easily and inexpensively replaced.

Popular choices for today's remodels include frameless glass shower doors, stone countertops and vanities that are kitchen-cabinet height, and water-saving dual-flushing toilets. And, in a reversal of a trend from 20 years ago, homeowners now want smaller tubs and larger showers.

"People don't have time to draw a bath, but they still want to indulge themselves," Stanwood says. "They want luxury. They want a really nice shower."

Sources: Melissa Broffman, Melissa Broffman Interior Design; Lytel Young, Lytel Young Design and HGTV's "Save My Bath"; Jennifer Parker, Patera Home; Catherine Hailey, Hailey Design; Robert McGuire, Page Southerland Page LLP; Donna Evers, Evers & Co.; Herbert Stanwood, Case Design.



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\$500 budget

■ Paint is the instant fresher. Special effects will draw attention to the walls and away from old fixtures. Use painter's tape to mark horizontal bands or vertical pinstripes and combine colors. Or create a tone-on-tone effect using three finishes (flat, semi-gloss, high-gloss) of one color.

■ Get a new shower curtain. A

polyester or cotton-polyester blend resists mold and mildew better than cotton. Or make one yourself, with 7 to 9 yards of a favorite fabric paired with a plastic liner. Use the same pattern for a window valance or Roman shade to tie the room together.

■ Pull out the old medicine cabinet or skimpy mirror and replace with a large framed mirror.

■ Update the sink and tub with new faucets, and change door

pulls and other hardware.

■ Replace builder-grade strip lights with light sconces on either side of the mirror. Plenty of nice options can be found for \$200 or less.

■ Consider a small chandelier. It will add fun and drama, especially in a powder room.

■ Buy new towels. Get two sets in one color and add two towels in another color. (Mini-splurge: Have the hand towels

monogrammed.)

■ Update accessories, including waste cans, tissue holders, decorative containers and soap.

■ A wall-mounted shelf over the sink can be an attractive perch for a toothbrush, clock and bud vase.

■ Add framed art, such as a collection of similarly themed works—botanicals, shells or magazine covers—hung in a grid with matching frames. *(The Washington Post)*

\$3,500 budget

■ At this price range, you can consider updated tile, which designers agree gives the entire bathroom a new look, especially if the old tile is damaged or dated.

■ Replace a sink or vanity for a fresh look and more storage. There are lots of sources for stand-alone vanities with stone countertops—from online, big-box and specialty stores—in a wide range of prices. Or turn an old chest or console into a bathroom vanity by retrofitting it with a sink. (The piece must stand at least 34 inches high to accommodate a drop-in sink).

■ Swap out a grungy shower door for a sparkling new glass door. The cleanest styles are frameless versions. For a unified look, make sure the door hardware matches the finishes on faucets and towel bars.

■ If everything else is in good order, consider replacing the bathtub. Deep soaking versions are more popular these days than whirlpools, our experts say; claw-foot tubs and other free-standing styles make a real statement.

■ Splurge on spa-style shower fixtures, such as a rain head nozzle—maybe even two. *(The Washington Post)*

■ Crown molding adds instant architectural interest in even the smallest space—especially in contrast to richly painted walls. *(The Washington Post)*

\$1,500 budget

■ Bead board wainscoting is an affordable alternative to adding or replacing bathroom tile and contributes instant cottage appeal. Available in solid wood and engineered wood; pre-made panel systems are designed for easy do-it-yourself installation. White bead board below and paint or wallpaper above is a classic look.

■ Update a worn laminate vanity countertop with natural or man-made stone. Visit a local stone yard and ask about discounted slabs of granite or marble. Consider pairing the new counter with an undermount sink.

■ Recessed lighting makes a big difference, especially in a smaller space like a powder room, for about \$150 to \$200 per light, installed. In a larger room, supplement the recessed lighting with a new wall-mounted fixture above the vanity mirror or sconces on either side. For maximum flexibility, put all lights on dimmers.

■ Reglazing or resurfacing damaged or dated tubs and tiles with an acrylic coating is much less expensive than replacing them. According to Mary Ann O'Hara, franchise owner of



Replace a sink or vanity for a fresh look and more storage. There are lots of sources for stand-alone vanities with stone countertops.

Miracle Method Surface Restoration in the Washington, D.C. area, the cost of refinishing a standard five-foot tub with a tile surround starts at \$1,190.

■ Acrylic liners, which are installed directly over existing tubs or tile, are another alternative. Joe Raab, a vice president for

Bath Fitter in Baltimore, says the average price for a standard tub liner in this region is \$1,300.

■ Update windows with wood blinds or shutters; bamboo,

reed or grass shades add a natural element.

■ Get a matching new faucet set, towel ring and toilet paper holder.

Cleaning storm window and door hardware

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.



Q: I just switched out my storm windows for screens, and now I need to clean the grime—dirt, old paint and so on—from the nooks and crannies of those storm windows. It's a pain. Do you have a faster way to clean this stuff?—A Reader, via e-mail

A: Cleaning handles, hinges and the grooves inside storm windows is a real pain at any time. But cleaning and storing them properly each spring will ensure smooth-functioning storm windows that last for many years.

One way to ease the amount of work involved is to create your own soaking and cleaning solution for storm windows (and any grimy window or door hardware that needs it).

First, remove hinges, screws and handles from the storm windows. Place the windows themselves in an open area where you can spray water on them.

Fill an old saucepan with about a quart of water and add four tablespoons of baking soda. Heat the water to a simmer and make sure the baking soda has dissolved fully. Place all the small hardware into the saucepan and continue simmering for 20 minutes or so. Remove the hardware using a slotted spoon or mesh scoop, let cool and scrub with steel wool.

Let the reserved water-baking soda mixture cool until you can touch it, then take the saucepan out to where the storm windows are waiting. Lay them out on a clean, dry surface (or even on an old tarp). Ladle the mixture over the grooved sides and let sit for a few minutes; then scrub with steel wool or a wire brush and rinse with clear water (for a faster rinse, spray them down with the garden hose). Stand upright to dry, reattach the hardware and store in a safe place until next fall.



HOME TIP: Because the metal frames and hardware for storm windows usually are made of aluminum, avoid using acidic solutions—like lemon juice or vinegar—to clean them.

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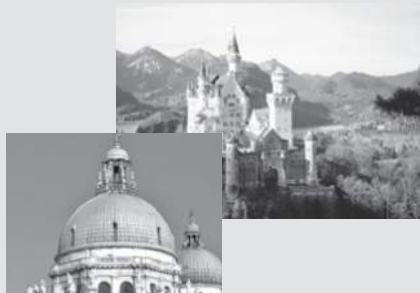
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KITCHEN MAGIC

Pork BBQ

We used ready-made shredded barbecued pork, sold in tubs in the meat department, for the base and added beans and fresh tomatoes for extra flavor and fiber. Serve with coleslaw and store-bought corn bread.

16 ounces (half 32-ounce container) fully cooked barbecue sauce with shredded pork

1 can (15 to 19 ounces) red kidney beans, rinsed and drained

1 can (15 to 19 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained

2 large plum tomatoes, cut into 1/4-inch dice

1. In 3-quart saucepan, heat pork mixture with beans, tomatoes and 1 cup water to boiling over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes to blend flavors, stirring occasionally. Makes 4 servings.

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The Good Life

Changing ideas about the fact of life

By MONICA HESSE

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How many legs does a dog have, if you call the tail a leg? Four: Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg.

—Abraham Lincoln

(Note: Lincoln never said this. He liked a similar, more long-winded anecdote about a cow, but the dog version? Nope. Still, the quote is credited to Abe on some 11,000 different Web pages, including quote resources Brainy Quote and World of Quotes.

(Though not technically "true," the quote makes a nice start to this article about truth, being topical and brief, so if we want to go with truth-by-consensus (very popular now), we can go ahead and just (begin ital) say (end ital) that he said it.

(Besides, by the time you finish this article, your brain might have tricked you into thinking that he did say it (more on that later), so let's just go ahead and leave it in. OK?)

Moving on.

Inhabitants of the Wiki-world, consider these random but related events, most of which pertain to the under-25 set, all of which occurred in the past six months:

The launching of Cumul.us, a wiki-weather site in which users can collaboratively decide whether it is raining outside.

The release of "True Enough: Learning to Live in a Post-Fact Society," Farhad Manjoo's exploration of the "cultural ascendancy of belief over fact."

The addition of "collateral misinformation" to UrbanDictionary.com. The entry: "When someone alters a Wikipedia article to win a specific argument, anyone who reads the false article before the 'error' is corrected suffers from collateral misinformation."

And a scholar at the Hoover Institution performed an experiment with totally unsurprising results: When 100 terms from U.S. history books were entered into Google, the topics' Wikipedia articles were the first hits 87 times.

All of these examples are signs of the times.

And all of them get at a big question: For the Google generation, what happens to the concepts of truth and knowledge in a user-generated world of information saturation?

■ ■ ■

"We're losing him! We're going to lose him!" Chad Stark frantically clicks back and forth between two windows on his computer screen.

Stark is the sweater vest-wearing, 30-something Hyattsville, Md., librarian currently manning AskUsNow, a 24/7 online chat open to Maryland residents who need research help.

A few minutes ago, his computer, located in the grubby employee workroom, had gone ping.

A question, from an anonymous user:

"how big do iguanas get?"

AskUsNow, developed four years ago, helps patrons find accurate online information so they don't have to fumble blindly in Google. Librarians: reliably on the front lines of truth protection.

Stark types that he'd be happy to help, but he's not fast enough for the user:

"dude u r boring me."

Stark scrolls quickly through several sites, searching for reputable iguana info.

"u respond slow. please consider taking a typing class."

More pings.

Questions that will be answered by other librarians logged on to the system flash up on the screen:

What did people learn from the physical effects of atomic bombings?

How do activities of insurance companies facilitate production?

Suddenly, iguana guy feels remorseful for his earlier taunts.

"i'm sorry. i'm drunk."

Stark sends a link, but it's too late. Iguana guy seems to have left his computer.

Stark sighs. "What they want is for you to give them the very first answer that pops up. And we can do that, but if it's wrong ..."

■ ■ ■

Google™

"If it's wrong" is the big If—the question that plagues librarians and teachers today. Of course, the information might be right—in one study, published in *Nature*, that reviewed scientific entries side-by-side, Wikipedia was found to be only slightly less reliable than *Encyclopedia Britannica* (four errors to *Britannica's* every three). There's at least a decent chance that the wisdom of the crowds is fine wisdom indeed.

What concerns people like Stark is the fact that, without peer review, it's so easy to be wrong, and for your wrongness to become the top Google hit on a subject, and for your wrongness to be repeated by other people who think it's right, until everyone decides that it's raining in Phoenix.

Andrew Keen describes it as "the cult of the amateur" in his same-named book. Stephen Colbert called it "wikiality"—meaning, "a reality where, if enough people agree with a notion, it must be true."

Information specialists call it the death of information literacy.

Information is about tidbits, crumbs of data. Information can be carried around on a Trivial Pursuit card. Information says, "It's currently 95 degrees in Anchorage."

Knowledge is different. Knowledge is about context—about knowing what to do with accumulated information. Knowledge is saying, "Dude, based on what I know of Alaska, it's never 95 degrees in Anchorage."

Joining librarians as trench warriors for truth are some teachers, from grade school through college.

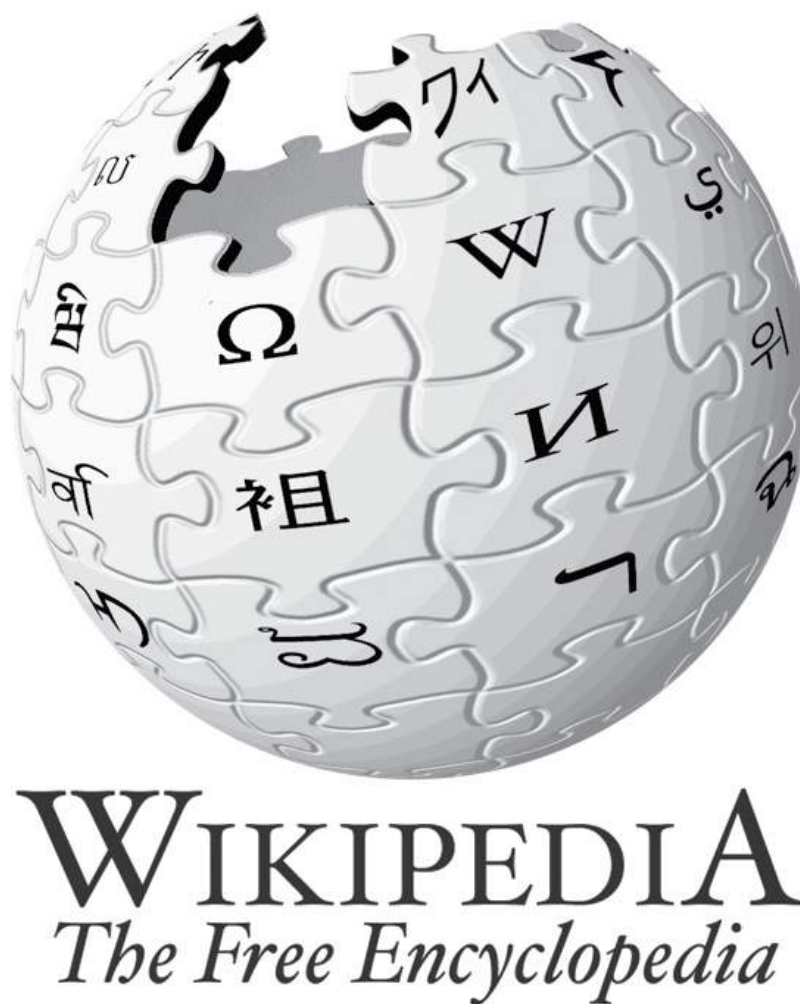
Mike Grill, who teaches Advanced Placement government at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va., describes the progression when he makes his students do a research paper.

"At the beginning of the year their sources will be some crank blog," Grill says. "Or they'll cite 'The Daily Show' as a source—'Jon Stewart said so.' " Grill says his students quote opinions as facts, and rarely consider whether the source is a person of authority.

For the six-week research project, he puts them through detox: limiting their online sources to a maximum of three, making them use library reference desks, dealing with their assertions that anything found in a book couldn't be very useful—wouldn't the information be, like, way outdated?

He accepts Wikipedia as a starting place, but encourages his students to think and not memorize. Grill says he "cannot in good conscience" let his students graduate without knowing how to conduct good research. "When they go off to college, that's when they really get their hands caught in the cookie jar."

At least, that's what he'd assumed, but he has



The truth is (hopefully) out there

By MONICA HESSE

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What are the facts on the facts? A snapshot of online information literacy.

■ 2,340,000: number of articles on the English-language Wikipedia.

■ 120,000: number of articles on *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*.

■ 58: the percentage of survey respondents who said they used search engines to solve problems relating to the government.

■ 34: the percentage who actually contacted

the government.

■ 36: the percentage of adults who use Wikipedia as a regular information source.

■ 13: percent said that information online was more accurate than off-line information.

■ 11: number of times the Wikipedia entry for "truth" was altered, in a one-week period.

■ 16,000: results found for the Google search "HIV does not cause AIDS."

■ 9,000: approximate hits for "The moon landing was staged."

■ 1: hit for "What is a primary source and why is it important?"

had some troubling visits from former students. "They say, 'Oh, Mr. Grill, I've never been in a library in college.' "

■ ■ ■

Anna Johnson is a George Washington University freshman from Iowa, who can sympathize with Grill's students: "I got through my first semester without ever checking out a book," she says sheepishly.

But during her second semester, she had the mandatory freshman seminar, which partners each section with a librarian to combat the decline of information literacy and is all the rage in liberal arts programs these days. At first, "I got really overwhelmed" by all the information, says Johnson. "The idea of having original thought completely terrified me." Once she realized how much information was out there, the idea of synthesizing it seemed impossible.

Ultimately, she finished a paper about homelessness and women that was strong enough to be selected for a writing symposium held recently on campus. Her work could have been even better: "Had I devoted a couple more weeks to research ... " She trails off helplessly. "But I need to sleep three or four hours a night."

Back in Hyattsville, Stark accepts another question, from a user who wants to know the distance between New Jersey and Venezuela for a science project on migration. Stark asks which cities in

New Jersey and Venezuela, explaining that this variable could drastically change the answer. The user seems annoyed—it's just science homework, dude. No need for such crazy accuracy. Stark finds the distance using two random cities, then answers three more questions from the same patron, including "In what continent is Venezuela?"

Stark stares at the screen for a second before typing in "South America." He doesn't bother to cross-reference this information.

"This kid doesn't know where Venezuela is, but he managed to log on and use this service," Stark says quietly. "That is pretty amazing."

■ ■ ■

There is a lot of information out there. It overwhelms us. It grows at a choking rate.

You wonder: Who is right?

The student who lives online? Or the lame teacher who thinks that books are a necessary component to a well-rounded understanding of how information works?

As students must absorb increasingly more information throughout their education, perhaps expecting them to assess whether it's true is simply too much. Four errors to *Britannica's* three ain't bad—and probably

good enough for the research the average person does on a daily basis.

Grill, the AP government teacher, listens to this argument thoughtfully before offering one of his own: "The lessons that come through understanding a process should never become a thing of the past," he says. The question of truth in a user-generated world isn't about the accuracy of information so much as it is about an appreciation for the intricacies of the search, for understanding that truth can be elusive, but the fight for it can be rewarding.

Sometimes it's a losing battle.

"My wife is in sales, and she's always saying, 'Why do the kids need to know this?'" Grill says. "She's the one who makes all the money, so I can't really argue."

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids



True or False

- 1) The second most common disease in the USA is tooth decay.
- 2) George Washington had teeth made out of hippo teeth.
- 3) Killer whales have the largest teeth in the world.

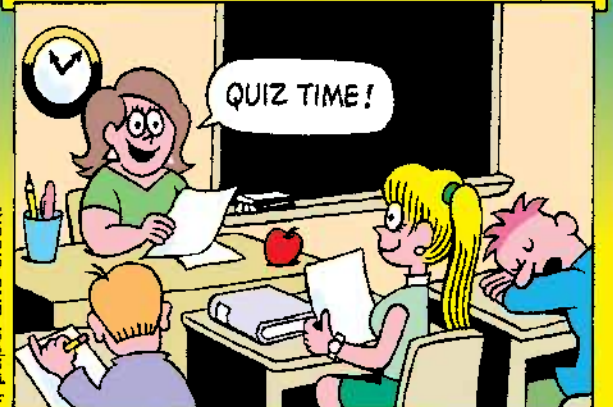
Answer -- 1) True, The common cold is first. 2) True. 3) False. Elephants have the largest teeth in the world.

Rachel Rabbit claims Cassandra Cat stole her jar of pennies. Cassandra insists her grandma gave her these coins before she died ten years ago. What evidence did Slylock Fox observe that led him to conclude Cassandra is lying?

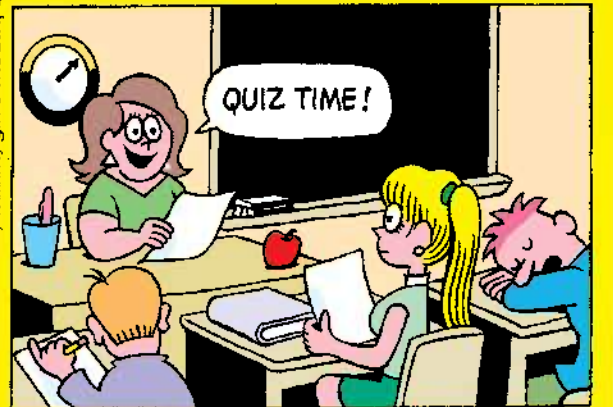
Solution -- Many of the coins are dated after Cassandra claims her grandma died.



Find six differences between these panels.



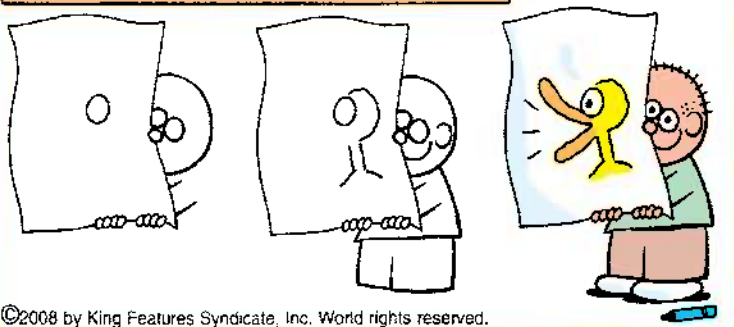
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Answer -- Pencil, watch, girl's mouth, book, paper and clock.

New! The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a young cartoonist



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YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Bailee Martin, age 9, of McAlisterville, PA



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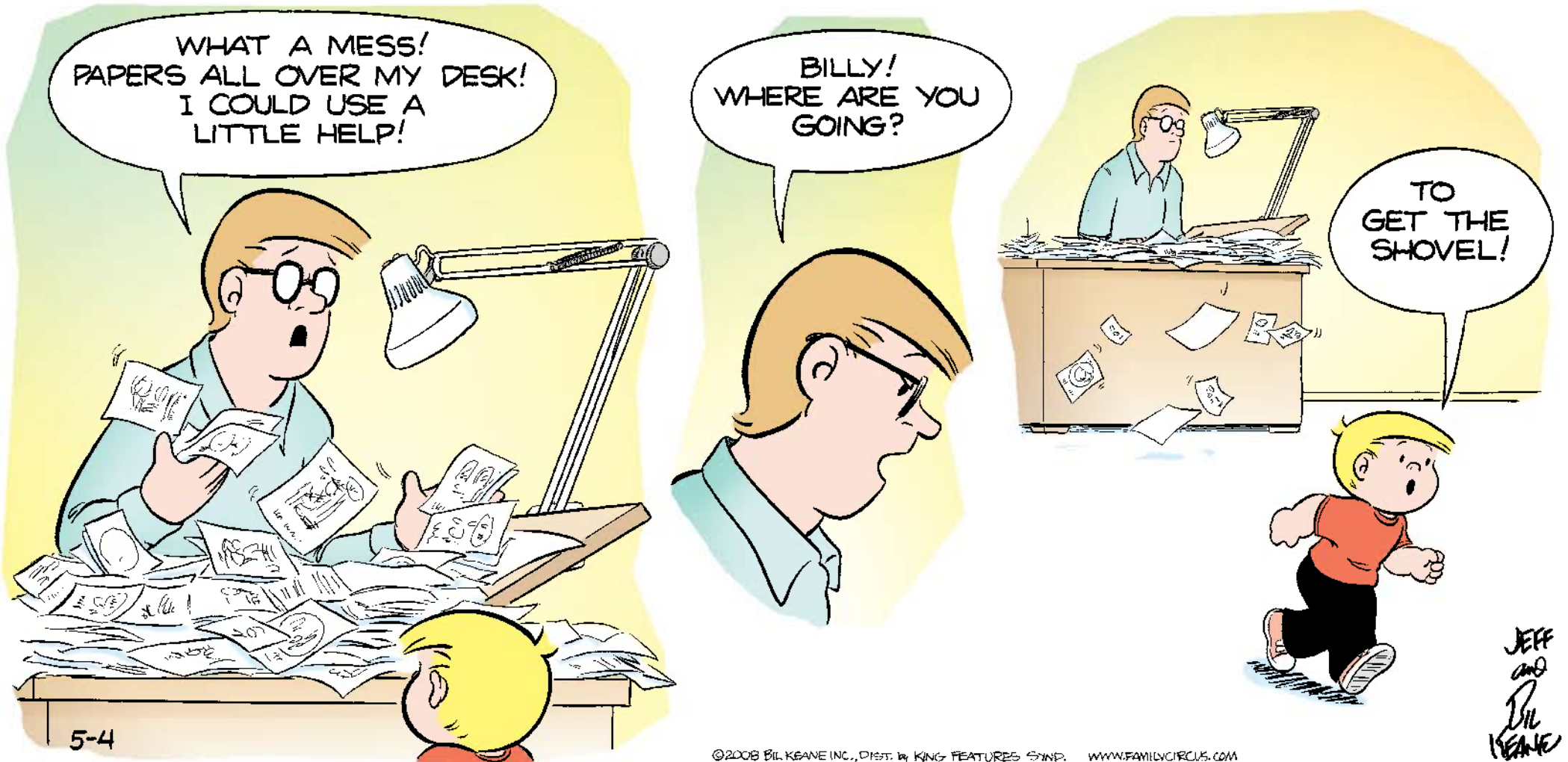
How many ways can a dollar bill be changed if you used all the different American coins minted?

- a) 50
- b) 77
- c) 158
- d) 292

Answer -- d)

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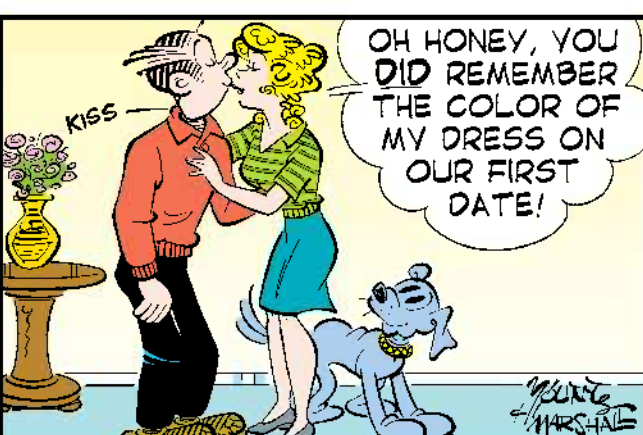
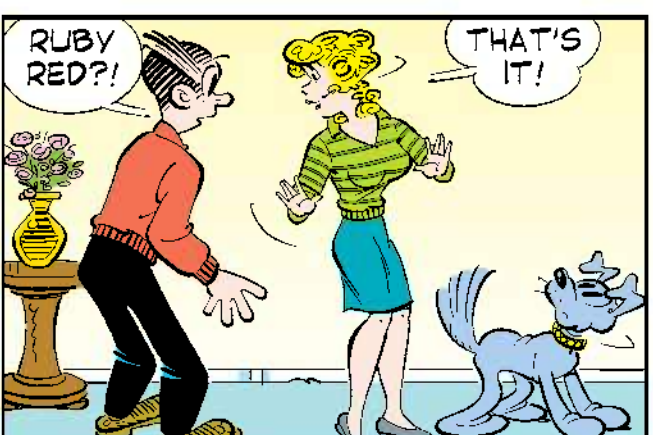
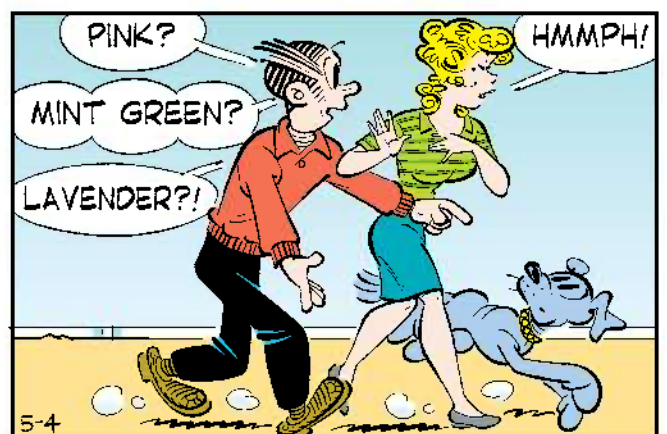
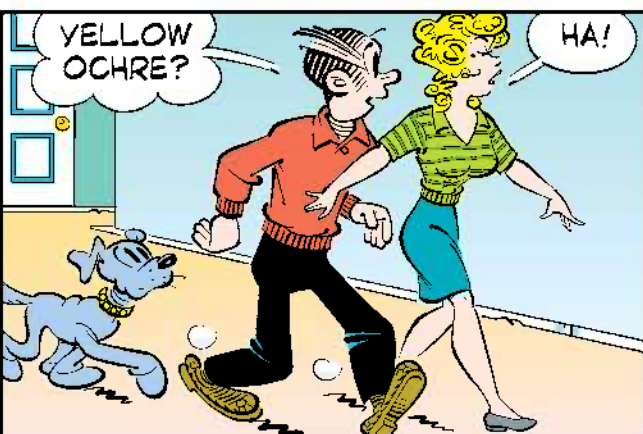
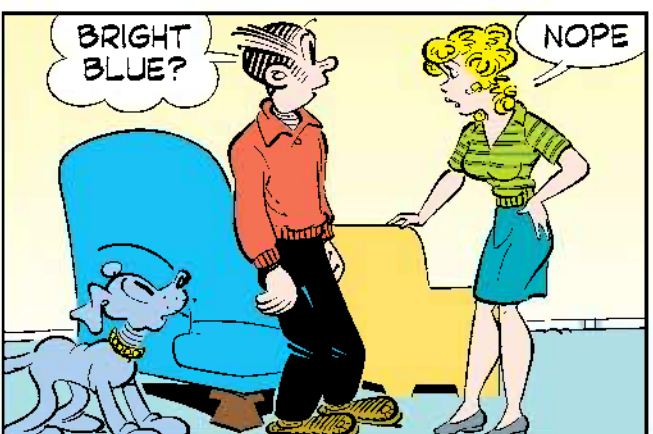
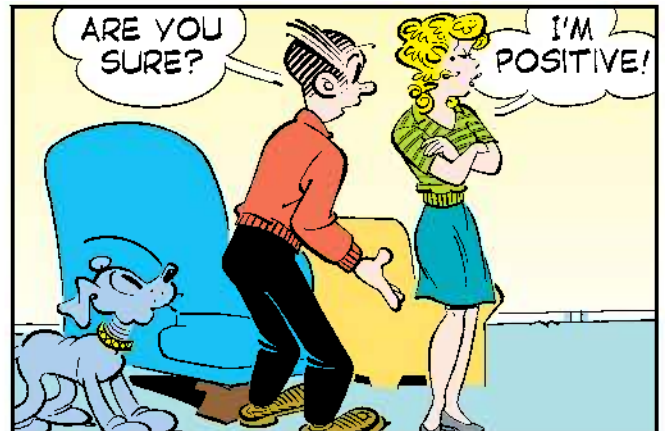
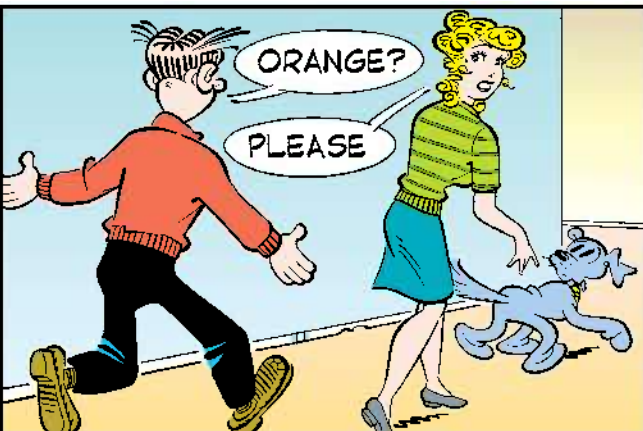
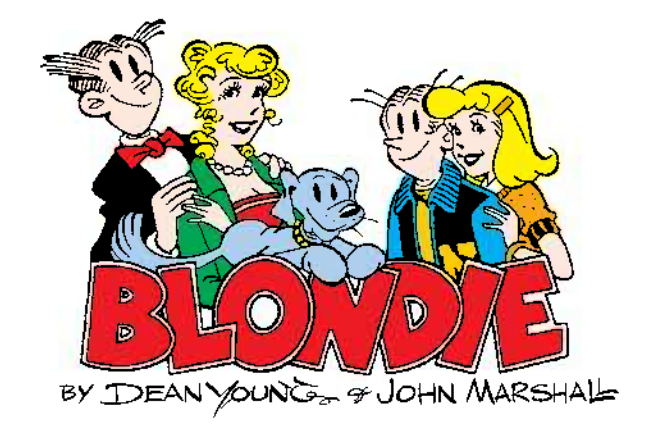
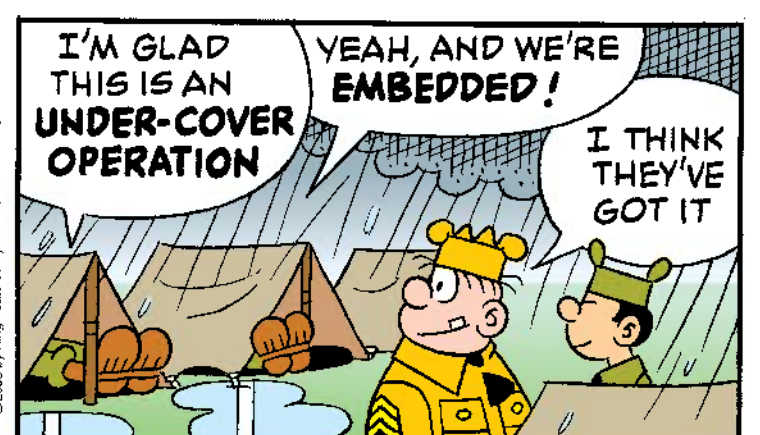
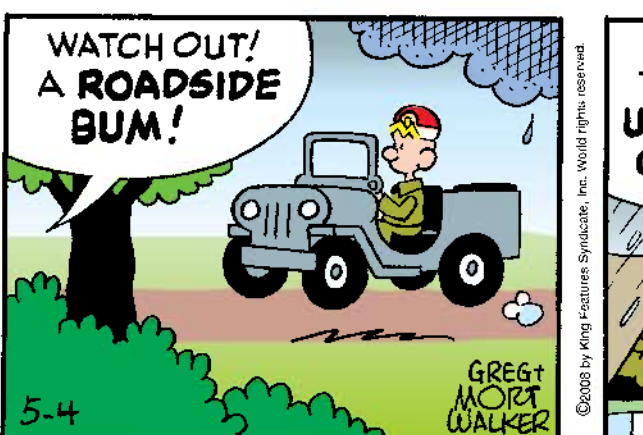
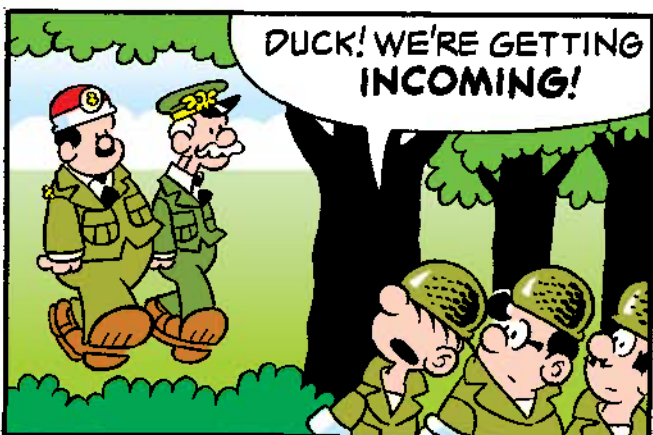
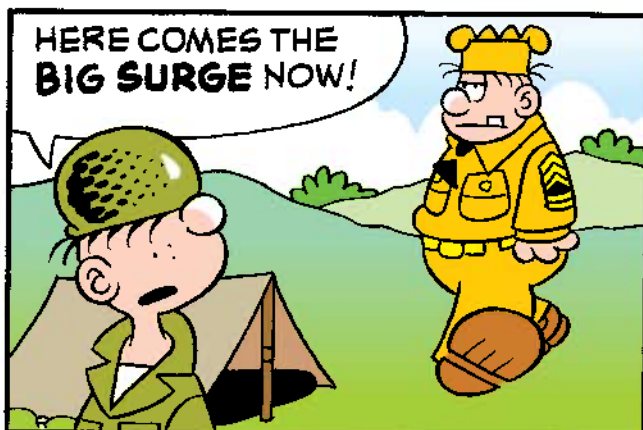
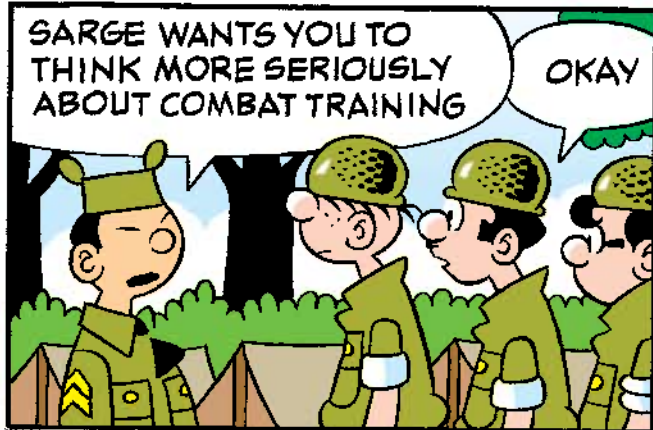
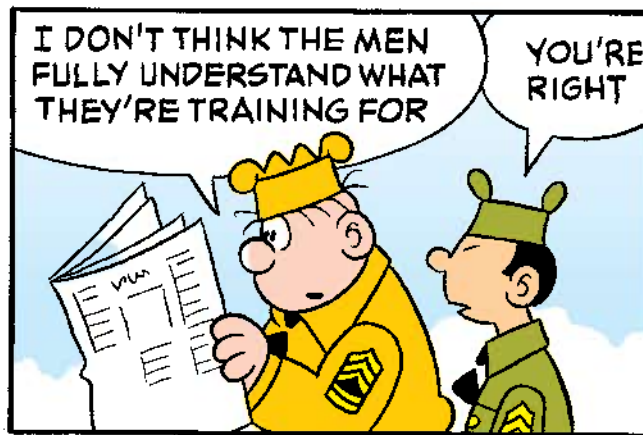
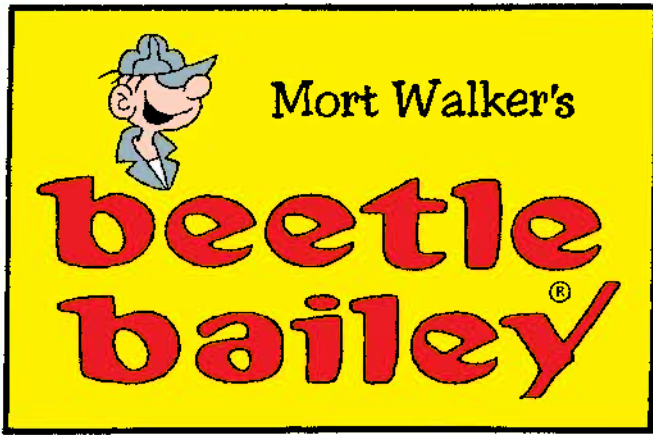
By Bil Keane

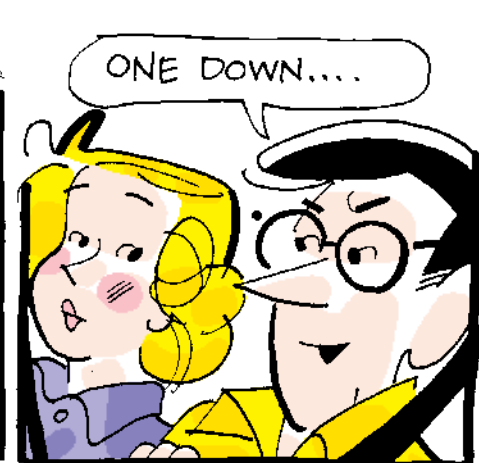
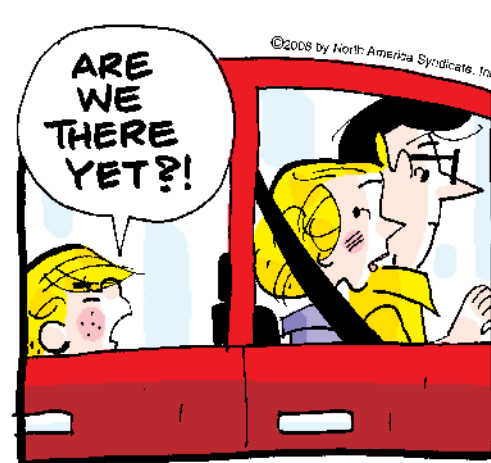
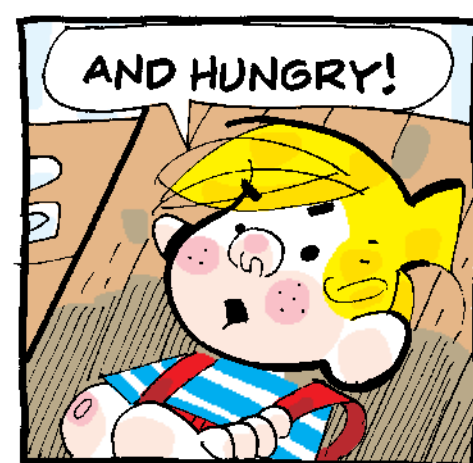
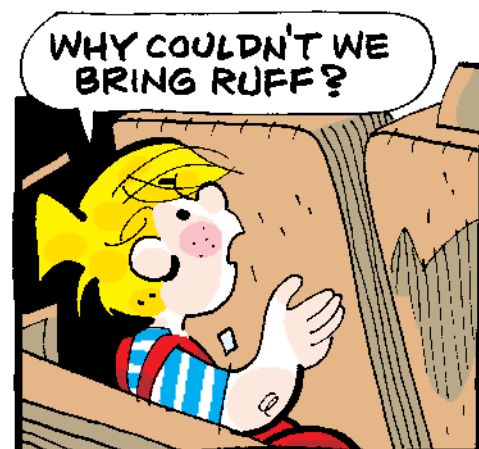
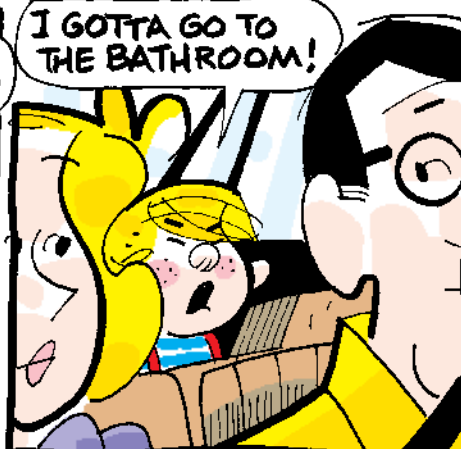
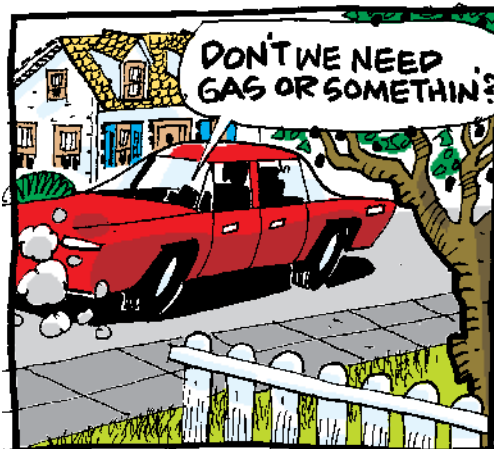
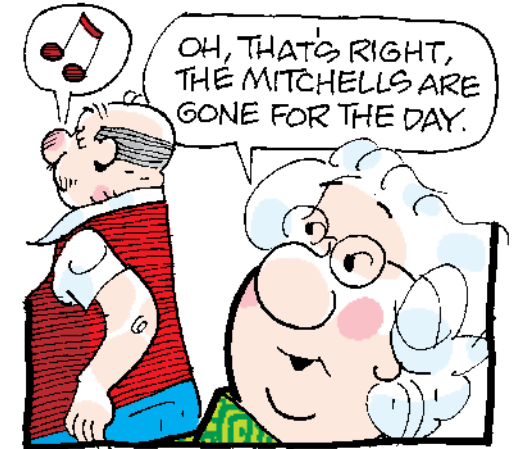
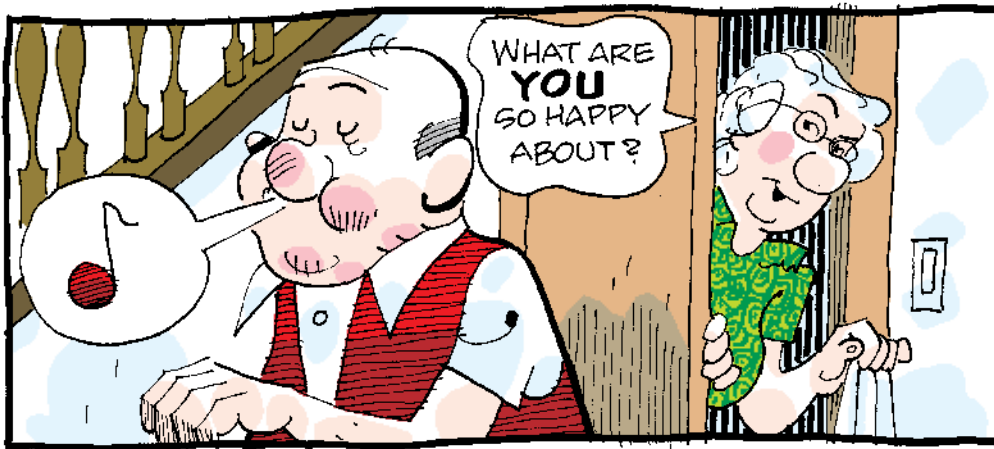
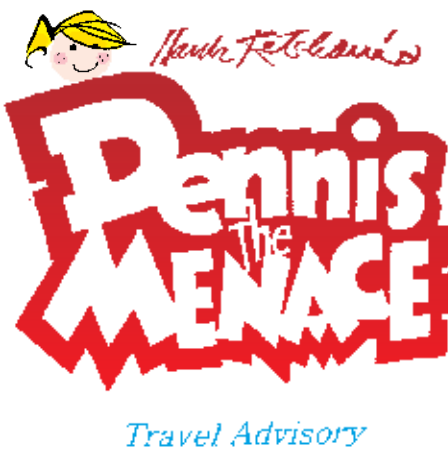
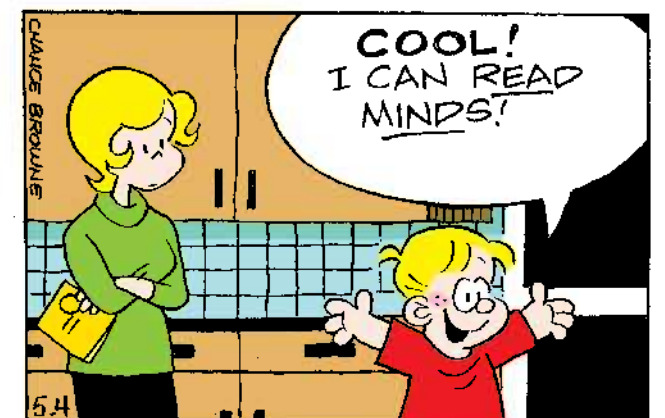
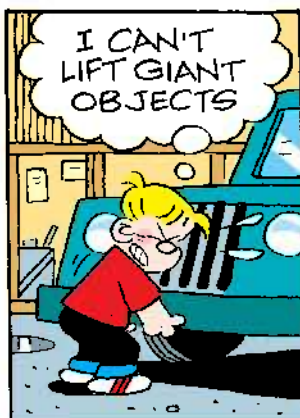
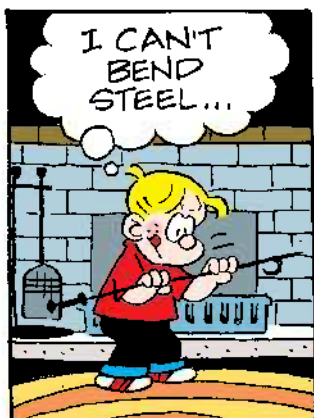
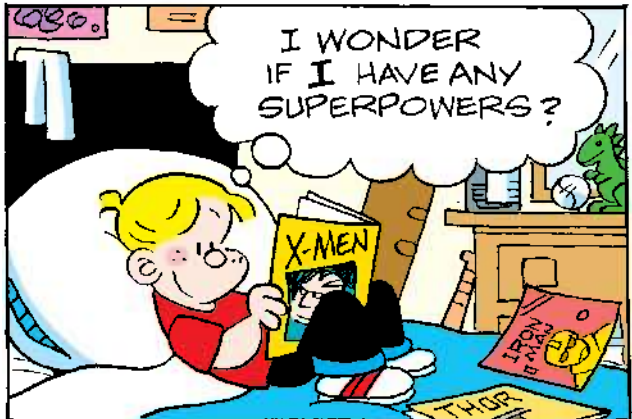
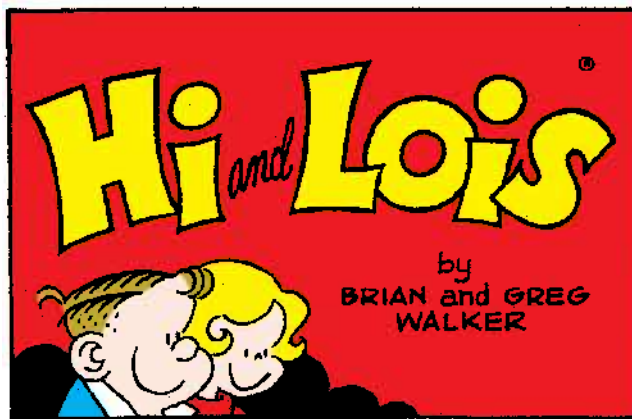


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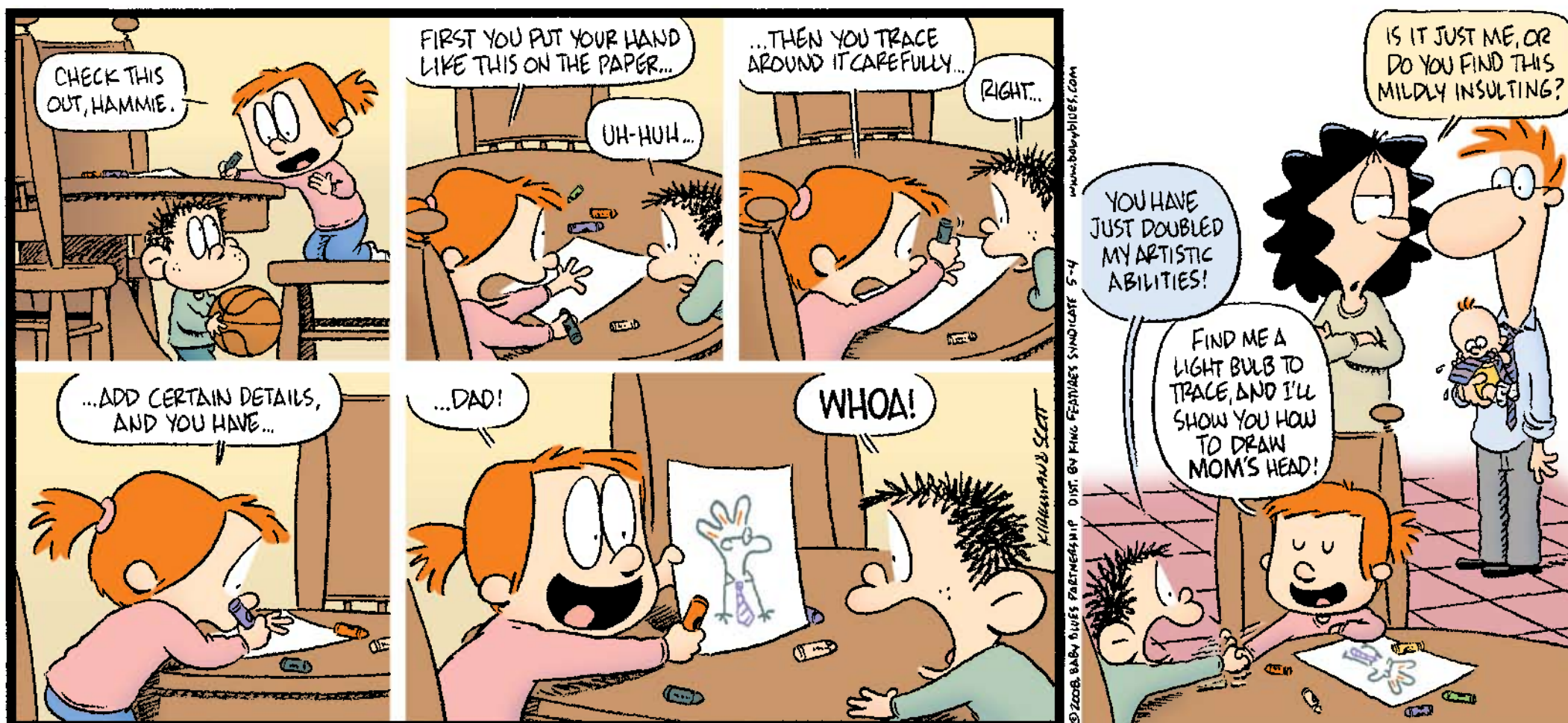
JEFF and Bil Keane





BABY BLUES™

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't waste your time and energy fretting over remarks you consider unnecessary or unkind. Best advice: Ignore them, and just keep doing your usual good job.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Getting that new perspective on a workplace situation could lead to a solution everyone will accept. Meanwhile, make time to keep up with your creative pursuits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Those changes you planned to implement in early summer might need to be reassessed. But don't make any moves until you've discussed this with someone you trust.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your aspects favor harmony, making this a good time to work out problems in relationships—whether personal or professional, big or small. An old friend comes back.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) While you're still riding that high-powered beam, you might begin to lose focus by week's end. Could be you'll need to do a little catnapping to restore your spent energies.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An unexpected development creates a lot of excitement. Where it takes you is your decision. Check out the possibilities, then decide if you want to go with it or not.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although your supporters help you squash an unfair claim against you, don't let this go unchallenged. You need to learn more about the motives of those behind it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) There are still some tasks to clear up by mid-week. Then you can welcome the new month on a high note. A friend brings surprising but very welcome news.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might want to change your plans before they're set in cement. Consider advice from colleagues. But remember that, ultimately, it's your choice.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A difficult situation is working itself out. Lingering problems should be resolved by week's end, allowing the Goat to enjoy a calmer, less stressful period.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Be careful not to move so quickly that you miss possible warning signs that could upset your plans. Slow down. Your supporters will continue to stand by you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your generosity in sharing your time and wisdom with others leads to an intriguing development that could have you considering some interesting choices.

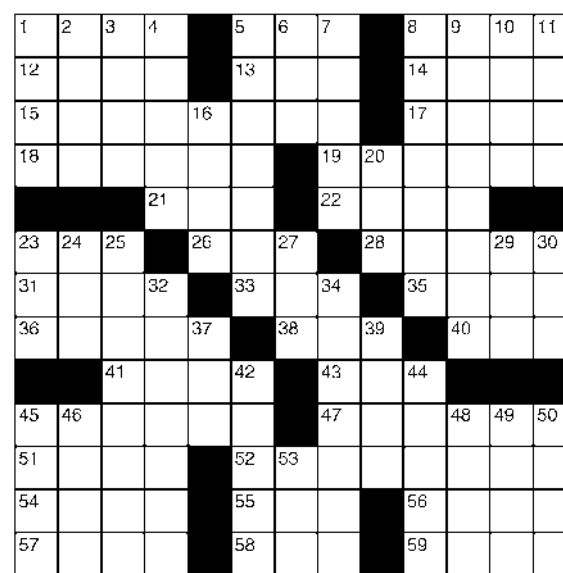
BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of influencing people to be and do their best. You would make an excellent teacher.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 -mater
- 5 Piglet's mama
- 8 Carpet style
- 12 Profit
- 13 Dance syllable
- 14 What teetotalers don't do
- 15 Cling
- 17 Additionally
- 18 Claim
- 19 Ducks
- 21 Collection
- 22 St. Louis team
- 23 Scrooge's cry
- 26 Slithery swimmer
- 28 Informative
- 31 Sci-fi villain
- 33 Plagiarize
- 35 Croupier's tool
- 36 Lily variety
- 38 Bribe
- 40 Yang counterpart
- 41 Robert or Elizabeth
- 43 Doggy bag tidbit
- 45 "Cheers!"
- 47 Rug
- 51 Restrooms, for short
- 52 Restrain
- 54 Hydrox look-alike



- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 55 Away from WSW | 7 Commonest liquid | 34 Smuggle |
| 56 Lot measure | 8 Soft-shell clam | 37 Actress MacGraw |
| 57 Hair salon request | 9 Rule | 39 Incite |
| 58 Journal | 10 Basilica area | 42 Lucy's partner in mischief |
| 59 Poker type | 11 The Bee - | 44 Members of the brass |
| | 16 Gratis | 45 Drop (down) |
| | 20 Forefront | 46 Exceptional |
| | 23 Telly net | 48 Treaty |
| | 24 Carte lead-in | 49 Beige |
| | 25 Continue with | 50 Scratched (out) |
| | 27 Part of UCLA | 53 Lennon's lady |
| | 29 Tackle moguls | |
| | 30 Longing | |
| | 32 Develop | |

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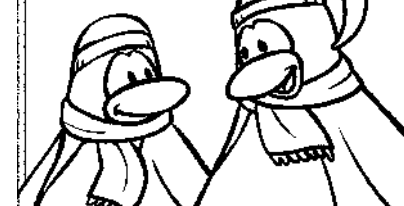
top ten

1. Club Penguin
2. Webkinz
3. KidsCom
4. Zwinkies
5. Puzzle Pirates
6. Toontown
7. M&M
8. Google Earth
9. kSolo
10. Science With Me

Web Sites For Kids

Source: AskBob Rankin.com

WE'RE #1!



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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

M	I	I	S	D	O	I	S	P	A
A	T	L	I	N	O	D	E	H	A
R	O	D	L	O	N	O	X	I	O
J	R	O	N	E	R	M	A	L	L
C	O	O	I	A	I	S	P	L	A
A	H	U	G	I	N	I	H	O	
R	L	S	E	L	L	H	O	D	L
M	I	S	E	R	T	U	R	A	
H	A	B	I	T	R	O	B	B	C
O	W	N	H	A	W	A	I	T	
V	A	R	I	O	U	S	S	C	O
F	R	I	E	A	G	E	S	O	U
I	F	I	F	O	I	O	N	S	I

United States

Twisters tear up 4 states; 7 killed in Ark.

DAMASCUS, Ark. (AP)—Violent storms unleashed tornadoes, high winds and hail in four central states and killed seven people in Arkansas, including a teenager who died when a tree fell into her bedroom as she slept.

The storms late Thursday and early Friday ripped off roofs and toppled train cars near Kansas City, Mo.; pelted parts of Oklahoma with hail; and knocked over tents at a popular open-air market in east Texas. Severe thunderstorms were moving into Kentucky and could make for a wet Kentucky Derby on Saturday.

Greg Carbin, a meteorologist for the national Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said as many as 25 tornadoes may have cut through stretches of Oklahoma, Arkansas, eastern Kansas and western Missouri.

Five of those killed were in two north-central Arkansas counties, Conway and Van Buren, that also saw fatalities from a devastating tornado Feb. 5. Gov. Mike Beebe declared those counties and five others



disaster areas.

"This year it just seems like we're getting pounded," Van Buren County Sheriff Scott Bradley said.

He said a man, a woman and a preschool-age child died when the storm hit their house just south of Bee Branch.

"There wasn't anything

left," Bradley said. "It was demolished."

Another child who lived at the home had already left for school, escaping injury.

A father and son died in Conway County when a possible tornado hit their mobile home. A twister demolished a chicken farm in Center

Tammy West helps her friends Liz and Charlie Young search for valuables at their home in Earle, Ark., after it was destroyed by a tornado on Friday, May 2, 2008. AP

Springs, leaving thousands of dead birds on the ground.

Near the Oklahoma line in a working-class neighborhood of Siloam Springs, a 15-year-old girl died in the early morning when apparent straight-line winds toppled a tree into her family's mobile home. She and her 10-year-old brother were sleeping in bunk beds; the boy survived with minor injuries.

"She was on (the top bunk). He was on bottom. When it fell it just crushed her and pinned her on top of him," with a mattress between them, said Chad Tilghman, who lives across the street and helped pull the boy from the storm debris.

The seventh death was reported in Pulaski County, south of Little Rock.

More than a dozen injuries were reported, and about 350 homes were damaged or destroyed in several Arkansas counties.



ACROSS THE NATION

Warrant dropped against man named in polygamist retreat raid

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—An arrest warrant has been dropped for a man thought to be the husband of a teenage girl whose report of abuse triggered a raid on a polygamist sect's Texas compound, authorities said Friday. A Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman would not say why the warrant was dropped for Dale E. Barlow, 50, who lives in Colorado City, Ariz. Barlow has denied knowing the 16-year-old girl who called a crisis center. The girl reported that she was a member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and that she was beaten and raped at the sect's Eldorado ranch. An investigation led to the April 3 raid, in which state welfare workers took 463 children living at the Yearning For Zion Ranch.

\$38M deal reached for Minn. bridge collapse victims

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Minnesota lawmakers reached agreement on a \$38 million compensation package for victims of a deadly bridge collapse, culminating months of work to provide relief beyond the state's legal liability. The deal struck in a joint committee of the House and Senate will offer everyone who was on the bridge up to \$400,000, with an additional \$12.6 million pool for the people who suffered the most severe injuries and losses. Thirteen people died in the Aug. 1 collapse, and 145 were hurt. The package is expected to be approved by the Legislature on Monday and sent off to Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who called it "needed relief and support" for victims.

Ohio attorney general admits to affair with employee

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Ohio's attorney general admitted an extramarital affair with an employee Friday, soon after three of his aides were fired or forced out after an investigation found evidence of sexual harassment and other misconduct. Leader of both parties were critical of Attorney General Marc Dann, one of several Democrats swept into office in 2006 after a scandal over state investments sullied Republicans. He apologized to his wife and supporters but promised not to step down. "I'm embarrassed. I have taken responsibility for what I've done," he told reporters. Dann had lived with two of the aides at an apartment during much of his first year in office and some of the alleged harassment by one of the aides occurred there.

Economy exhibits resilience; jobless rate falls, dollar rises

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy showed off unexpected signs of resilience Friday as job losses slowed, the dollar gained a bit of muscle for a change and there were even indications that food prices may be easing. The unemployment rate dipped, though that may not last.

The latest barometers flashed encouraging signs that the economic slowdown may not be as pronounced as some had feared. Still, there's much caution—about housing, credit and other problems.

"Economic or financial conditions could take an unexpected stumble at any time," warned Stephen Stanley, chief economist at RBS Greenwich Capital.

Employers eliminated 20,000 jobs in April—not nearly as many as the 81,000 in March, and the fewest monthly losses so far this year, the Labor Department reported. The unemployment rate dropped to 5 percent, from 5.1 percent.

Stresses were still evident. It was the fourth straight month that employers cut jobs—bringing total losses to 260,000.

Many analysts were bracing for much more carnage. Yet, the new figures "can't be taken as a signal that the economy is out of the recession woods," said Nigel Gault, of Global Insight.

On Wall Street, investors initially responded enthusiastically to the employment news, with the Dow Jones industrial average rising more than 100 points, but the market gave back part

Bush: Economy going to 'come on'

MARYLAND HEIGHTS, Mo. (AP) —President Bush, buoyed by a batch of economic news that wasn't as bad as expected, predicted Friday that consumers are on their way to better days. "I know it's tough times, and I know you're having to pay more at the fuel pump than you want," Bush said. "But this economy is going to come on. I'm confident it will."

After months of talking of the economy's resilience, Bush was able to pivot his latest pep talk off some encouraging signs - at least relative to the gloomy indicators of late.

Employers cut far fewer jobs in April than they did in March, although it was the fourth straight month of slashed payrolls. The unemployment rate dropped slightly, from 5.1 percent to 5 percent, which was a better-than-expected showing.

Elsewhere in the economy, the dollar gained a bit of strength, and there were even signs that

food prices may be easing. Bush, reflecting on the weak and stagnant growth of the economy over the first quarter of the year, said, "That's not good enough for America."

Still, he said, consumers are just now starting to get relief from an economic package approved in February. Rebate checks of up to \$600 for individuals and \$1,200 for families began heading toward people's mailboxes or directly into their bank accounts this week.

Bush called it a "robust attempt to inject life" that hasn't really kicked in yet.

The president's comments, to employees at a technology plant in this St. Louis suburb, were his latest attempt to show he understands the pinch on millions of working families.



Bush

of that gain and closed up 48.20 points. Investors were keeping their euphoria in check, especially since stocks had already shot nearly 190 points higher on Thursday.

Still, the tone in the market was clearly more upbeat. Thursday's advance came on a growing sense that the economy isn't as wounded from the credit crisis as many people have feared.

Investors were also reassured by the dollar's show of strength this week. The greenback's latest gains have come on expectations that the Federal Reserve is likely to hold interest rates steady—a trend that makes U.S. assets more attractive to overseas buyers. The U.S. currency rose this week to a five-week

high against the euro.

In turn, the dollar's advance has had an impact in the commodities market. Food prices—such as for wheat and soybeans—eased. And while oil did rise Friday, that was because of supply concerns rather than moves in the dollar.

"Things are a little brighter," Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics, said of all the developments. "The economy is seen as doing a little bit better" and that's contributing to the stronger dollar and calmer food prices, he said.

Another report out Friday showed orders to U.S. factories rose a bigger-than-expected 1.4 percent in March after two straight months of declines.

Higher prices, though, accounted for part of the gain.

Businesses are handing out pink slips as they cope with an economy that is teetering on the edge of a recession, or possibly in one already. A severe housing slump, harder-to-get credit and financial turmoil have forced people and businesses to be more cautious in their spending. And that has hurt the economy.

To help relieve credit problems, the Federal Reserve announced Friday it would boost the availability of short-term loans to commercial banks to \$150 billion in May from the \$100 billion supplied in April. The goal is to supply a source of cash to squeezed banks so that they'll keep lending.

Asia

Intestinal virus kills 21 children in China

BEIJING (AP)—An outbreak of intestinal virus in eastern China has claimed the lives of at least 21 children and the number of reported cases has risen to nearly 2,500, the official Xinhua News Agency said Friday.

Xinhua said all those suffering from Enterovirus 71 were under age 6 and most were under age 2. The outbreak was first reported in March in Fuyang, a city in the eastern province of Anhui.

The report gave no details on the latest death from the virus, which causes fever, mouth sores and a rash with blisters.

Xinhua quoted Gao Kaiyan, director of the Anhui provincial health department, as saying the total number of infected children stood at 2,477.

It said about 700 children are hospitalized, 36 of them in serious condition, and just over 1,000 are being treated as outpatients. Some 740 youngsters have recovered, Xinhua said.

Some of the children have been diagnosed with brain, heart and lung damage, the report said.

The number of cases has steadily increased, the Anhui Health Bureau's Web site said earlier this week. An official investigation into the cause of the outbreak is under way, along with a prevention and control effort to contain infected areas, the bureau said.

Torch relay inspires a show of patriotism in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's near flawless Olympic torch relay Friday might help ease Beijing's suspicions that the former British colony doesn't love the Chinese motherland enough.

Tens of thousands of Hong Kong residents dressed in red—the Communist Party's favorite color—lined the streets and cheered during the flame's tour through this bastion of capitalism.

There were no massive protests demanding more democracy in the city that Britain handed back to China 11 years ago. Human rights groups and pro-Tibet activists didn't try to block the relay, as others have during the flame's overseas

odyssey in 20 nations.

Instead, for many in Hong Kong, it was a day to celebrate and be proud to be Chinese. Many carried Chinese flags or wore big red stickers on their shirts saying, "Go China!"

After the relay, Hong Kong's No. 2 leader, Henry Tang, praised the turnout of more than 100,000, saying people created an "ocean of red that has washed over Hong Kong."

Hong Kong has long been different from the rest of the China. Much of its population was born in mainland China but fled to Hong Kong to escape the poverty and turmoil of the first decades of Communist rule.

MILF occupy Philippine village

COTABATO, Philippines (AP)—More than a thousand mostly Christian settlers fled their southern Philippine farming village after about 300 armed Muslim rebels occupied their land, the guerrillas and a mayor said Friday.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas entered the coastal village of Sangay in Ka-

lamansig township on Wednesday, demanding food and confiscating rice recently harvested by the villagers, Kalamansig Mayor Rolando Garcia said.

The rebels told the frightened villagers to leave, sending them fleeing to Kalamansig town some three hours away by boat, Garcia told reporters. Kalamansig is in Sultan Kudarat province.

anger against the American military presence in Japan. James Littlejohn, a 22-year-old Airman 1st Class at the Misawa Air Base in northern Japan, was arrested on charges of groping a 19-year-old woman Friday while she was walking home, said a spokesman from Hachinohe police near Misawa. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing policy. Littlejohn allegedly hugged the woman from behind, then forcibly touched her breasts and buttocks, the police spokesman said. He then fled in his car, but was taken into custody after police stopped the vehicle based on a description from the woman.

Dalai Lama envoys head to China

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama's envoys headed for China on Friday to hold the first talks with Chinese officials since violent protests erupted in Tibet. China has faced mounting calls to negotiate with Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, and many believe it agreed to the talks in a bid to ease the pressure ahead of the Beijing Olympics. The two envoys were going to China for "informal talks with representatives of the Chinese leadership,"

the Dalai Lama's office said in a statement. It gave no further details on where or when the talks would take place, though Tibetan government spokesman Thubten Samphal said the envoys had arrived in Hong Kong on Friday.

Japan war shrine film stirs free speech debate

TOKYO (AP)—Yasukuni war shrine is Japan's ultimate taboo subject. A symbol of the country's militaristic past, the shrine is revered by nationalists, despised by Japan's Asian neighbors, and rarely mentioned in public by anyone else. On Saturday, that taboo faces a test with the premiere of a documentary film that has drawn protests from right-wingers, spooked theater owners and won praise from Japanese who say it's time to openly discuss the shrine. "Yasukuni" focuses on Aug. 15, 2005, when thousands thronged the shrine to mark the 60th anniversary of Tokyo's World War II surrender. The shrine honors the 2.5 million Japanese who fell in wars from the late 1800s until 1945. The Tokyo opening Saturday was to be accompanied by a heavy police presence.

Across the Globe



In this photo released by the Saba News Agency, onlookers gather at the scene of a motorcycle bomb attack in the rebel stronghold of Saada in northern Yemen Friday, May 2, 2008.

Motorcycle bomb explodes at Yemen mosque, kills 18

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—A bomb rigged to a motorcycle blew up amid a crowd of worshippers leaving Friday prayers at a mosque in a rebel stronghold of northern Yemen, killing at least 18 people and wounding about four dozen, officials said.

The attack occurred in Saada, a city in a mountainous Shiite Muslim area on the border with Saudi Arabia where a rebellion by members of the al-Zaydi sect erupted in 2004. Thousands have died in violence between the rebels and

the government of this predominantly Sunni country.

Both sides blamed each other for the attack in Saada, where officials said most of the 18 dead and approximately 45 injured were worshippers filing out of the Bin Salman mosque.

Mohammed Abdel Bari said he was inside the mosque when he heard a strong explosion. "I saw crowds of people and two charred vehicles. I saw scores of people laying on the ground," he said.

Government officials blamed the bombing on rebel

leader Abdel-Malek al-Hawthi and said six people had been arrested in Saada.

"Those who carried out this ugly crime are terrorists and criminals linked to the terrorist Abdel-Malek al-Hawthi," an Interior Ministry statement said.

Al-Hawthi denied involvement and charged that senior army officers staged the attack to stoke tensions.

"We denounce and condemn this incident," he told The Associated Press by telephone. "We have nothing to do with this attack whatsoever."

Islamic insurgents in Somalia threaten revenge on America

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A U.S. airstrike that killed the suspected al-Qaida leader in Somalia brought warnings of vengeance from Islamic insurgents Friday and the threat of a boycott that could jeopardize peace talks with the U.N.-supported government.

The biggest alliance supporting Somalia's Islamic insurgency said it might pull out of planned May 10 talks on escalating fighting and a humanitarian crisis that has caused thousands of civilian deaths and displaced hundreds of thousands over the past year.

Zimbabwe opposition OK to power sharing

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's opposition said Friday it was willing to share power with the ruling party, but not with longtime President Robert Mugabe.

Left unresolved was whether a runoff election would be held. Mugabe said he was willing to take part in a second round of voting after official results showed him in second place.

However, the opposition Movement for Democratic

"The U.S. strike can undermine the U.N.-sponsored peace parlay," said Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, exiled chairman of the Alliance for Liberation and Reconstitution of Somalia.

"We will reconsider taking part ... due to the U.S. military attack," he said in a telephone interview from Cairo, Egypt.

The participation of Ahmed's alliance, which includes both moderates and Islamic hardliners inside Somalia and in exile, is seen as crucial to the success of talks scheduled in neighboring Djibouti.

Fritzl: Shrewd liar, obsessive tyrant

AMSTETTEN, Austria (AP)—Casual acquaintances knew Josef Fritzl as a jovial fellow who liked to drink beer and enjoyed a bawdy joke.

But former neighbors say the man accused of imprisoning his daughter and fathering her seven children ran his household like a dictator. Piece by piece, a picture is emerging of a shrewd liar and an obsessive tyrant.

"At home, he was clearly the lord of the manor. Even at his campground, he was very strict and his rules had to be followed," said Anton Graf, who rented Fritzl land along Austria's Mondsee Lake.

"He was inflexible and had no sensitivity," Graf, 57, told The Associated Press. "You were sick, something happened, he didn't care ... There was a rule—and that was it."

Although authorities have clamped down on records, examples of Fritzl's double life are coming to light. The 73-year-old retired electrician was both a hard worker respected by his peers, and a fiercely private man whose life revolved around the home he ruled with an iron fist.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Cyclone knocks out electricity in much of Myanmar capital

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A Myanmar official says a tropical cyclone packing winds of up to 120 miles per hour caused heavy damage in Yangon. Officials say the cyclone's high winds tore off roofs and knocked out electricity in much of the country's commercial capital. The official from the country's Meteorology Department, who spoke anonymously because he is not authorized to speak to the press, says he expects deaths and injuries from Saturday's storm. He could not immediately provide any figures. In a special announcement broadcast several times Friday afternoon, the meteorological bureau said tropical cyclone Nargis, originating in the Bay of Bengal, could hit the coast near Yangon, the country's biggest city.

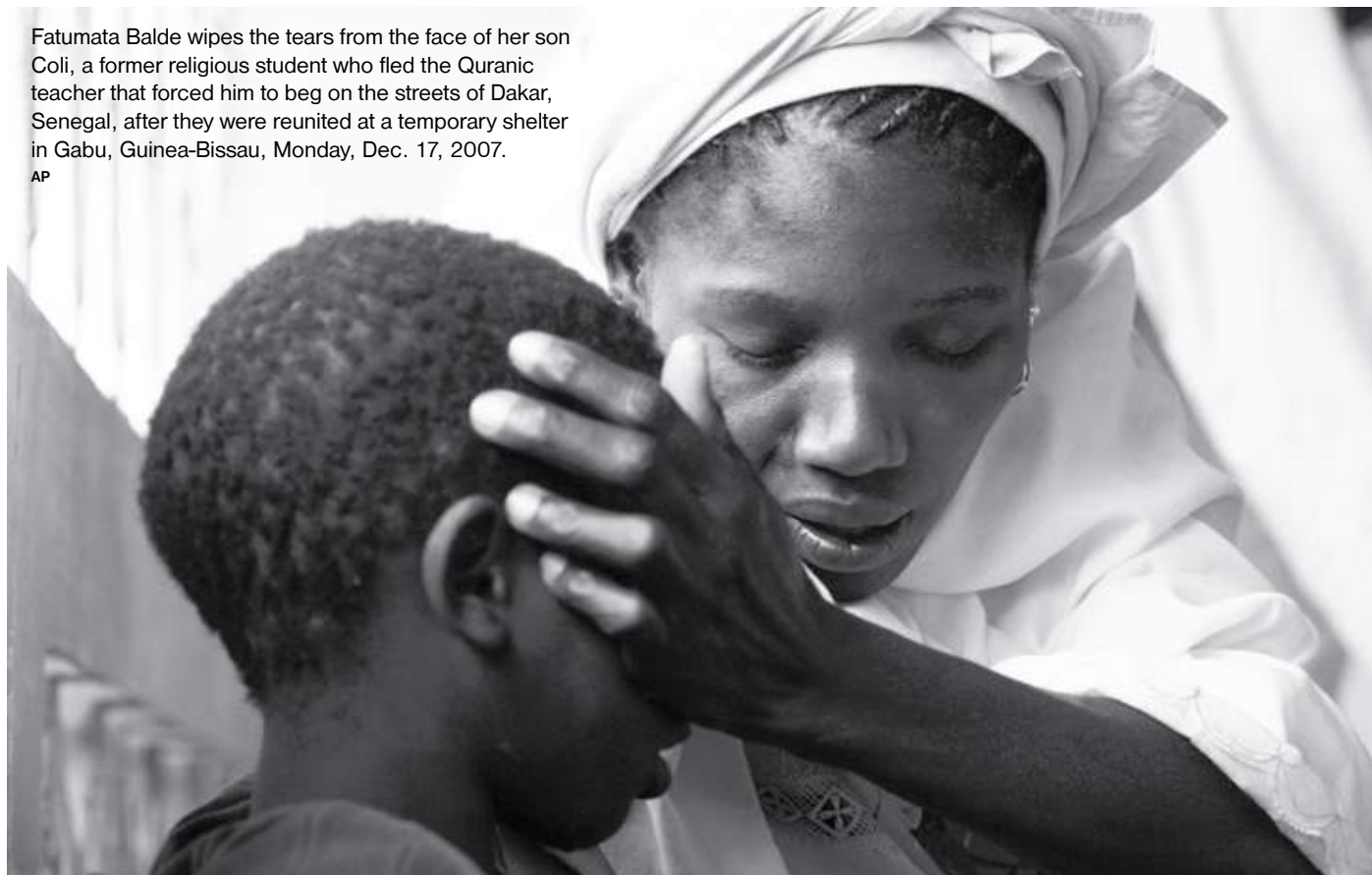
US airman in Japan arrested, accused of groping woman

TOKYO (AP)—A U.S. serviceman was accused of sexually assaulting a Japanese woman on Friday, the latest in a series of criminal accusations sparking

Focus

Fatmata Balde wipes the tears from the face of her son Coli, a former religious student who fled the Quranic teacher that forced him to beg on the streets of Dakar, Senegal, after they were reunited at a temporary shelter in Gabu, Guinea-Bissau, Monday, Dec. 17, 2007.

AP



Islamic schools lure African boys into begging

By RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—On the day he decided to run away, 9-year-old Coli awoke on a filthy mat.

Like a pup, he lay curled against the cold, pressed between dozens of other children sleeping head-to-toe on the concrete floor. His T-shirt was damp with the dew that seeped through the thin walls. The older boys had yanked away the square of cloth he used to protect himself from the draft. He shivered.

It was still dark as he set out for the mouth of a freeway with the other boys, a tribe of 7-, 8- and 9-year-old beggars.

Coli padded barefoot between the stopped cars, his head reaching only halfway up the windows. His scrawny body disappeared under a ragged T-shirt that grazed his knees. He held up an empty tomato paste can as his begging bowl.

There are 1.2 million Colis in the world today, children trafficked to work for the benefit of others. Those who lure them into servitude make \$15 billion annually, according to the International Labor Organization.

It's big business in Senegal. In the capital of Dakar alone, at least 7,600 child beggars work the streets, according to a study released in February by the ILO, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank. The children collect an average of 300 African francs a day, just 72 cents, reaping their keepers \$2 million a year.

Most of the boys—90 per-

cent, the study found—are sent out to beg under the cover of Islam, placing the problem at the complicated intersection of greed and tradition. For among the cruellest facts of Coli's life is that he was not stolen from his family. He was brought to Dakar with their blessing to learn Islam's holy book.

In the name of religion, Coli spent two hours a day memorizing verses from the Quran and



Children's shelter worker Faty Diop left, comforts Abdul, a former religious student who fled the Quranic teacher that forced him to beg on the streets of Dakar, Senegal, after he is overcome with emotion on returning to his native region of Gabu, Guinea-Bissau, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2008.

over nine hours begging to pad the pockets of the man he called his teacher.

It was getting dark. Coli had less than half the 72 cents he was told to bring back. He was afraid. He knew what happened to children who failed to meet their daily quotas.

They were stripped and doused in cold water. The older boys picked them up like ham-

mocks by their ankles and wrists. Then the teacher whipped them with an electrical cord until the cord ate their skin.

Coli's head hurt with hunger. He could already feel the slice of the wire on his back.

He slipped away, losing himself in a tide of honking cars. He had 20 cents in his tomato can.

Three years ago, a man wearing a skullcap came to Coli's village in the neighboring country of Guin-

ea-Bissau and asked for him.

Coli's parents immediately addressed the man as "Serigne," a term of respect for Muslim leaders on Africa's western coast. Many poor villagers believe that giving a Muslim holy man a child to educate will gain an entire family entrance to paradise.

Since the 11th century, families have sent their sons to study at the Quranic schools that flourished on Africa's western seaboard

with the rise of Islam. It is forbidden to charge for an Islamic education, so the students, known as talibe, studied for free with their marabouts, or spiritual teachers. In return, the children worked in the marabout's fields.

The droughts of the late 1970s and '80s forced many schools to move to cities, where their income began to revolve around begging. Today, children continue to flock to the cities, as food and work in villages run short.

Not all Quranic boarding schools force their students to beg. But for the most part, what was once an esteemed form of education has degenerated into child trafficking. Nowadays, Quranic instructors net as many children as they can to increase their daily take.

"If you do the math, you'll find that these people are earning more than a government functionary," said Souleymane Bachir Diagne, an Islamic scholar at Columbia University. "It's why the phenomenon is so hard to eradicate."

Middle men trawl for children as far afield as the dunes of Mauritania and the grass-covered huts of Mali. It's become a booming, regional trade that ensnares children as young as 2, who don't know the name of their village or how to return home.

One of the largest clusters of Quranic schools lies in the poor, sand-enveloped neighborhoods on either side of the freeway leading into Dakar.

This is where Coli's marabout squats in a half-finished house whose floor stirs with flies. Amadu Buwaro sleeps on a mattress covered in white linens.

The 30 children in his care sleep in another room with dirty blankets on the floor. It smells rotten and wet, like a soaked rag.

Buwaro is a thin man in his 30s who wears a pressed olive robe and digital watch. The children wear T-shirts black with filth. He expects them to beg to pay the rent, because there are no fields here to till.

But their earnings far exceed his rent of \$50. If the boys meet their quotas, they bring in around \$650 a month in a nation where the average person earns \$150.

Buwaro expects the children to suffer to learn the Quran, just as he did at the hands of his teacher.

So when Coli failed to return, Buwaro was furious. He flipped open his flashy silver cell phone and called another marabout who kept a blue planner with names of runaway boys. The list stretched down the page. He added Coli's name.

■ ■ ■

His tomato can tucked under one arm, Coli jumped on the back of a

ception for children begging for religious reasons. Few dare to cross marabouts for fear of supernatural retaliation.

Coli's marabout entered the shelter flanked by a column of religious leaders in cascading robes that tumbled onto the ground. One of them stabbed his finger at the clouds and yelled out, "The sky will fall down on you if you don't hand over our children."

The shelter is used to such threats. But this time the marabouts had discovered the center's legal paperwork was not complete. They threatened to close the shelter if it did not hand over 11 boys.

To save more than 40 others, the shelter handed over the 11. Coli was on the list.

Back at the school, they beat the 9-year-old until he thought he was going to faint. At night, they dragged him off the floor, doused him in water and beat him again.

Three days later, he ran away again. When he arrived at the shelter, he said: "I want to go home to my mom."



AP

Religious students forced to beg for their Quranic teacher ask for change and food from cars stuck in traffic on the outskirts of Dakar, Senegal, Saturday, Aug. 25, 2007.

bus, holding on to the swinging rear door. He was hundreds of miles from the village where he grew up speaking Peuhl, a language not commonly heard in Dakar.

He could not ask the Senegalese for help. So he got directions in Peuhl from other child beggars, who like him were trafficked here from the zone of green savannah just outside Senegal.

Coli made his way to a neighborhood where he had heard of a place that gave free food to children like him.

"Do you know where you come from?" asked the kind-faced woman at Empire des Enfants. The shelter's capacity is 30 children, but it usually houses at least 50.

Coli knew the name of his mother, but not how to reach her. He knew the name of the region where he was born, but not his village. "My mother is black," he said. "I'm sure I'll recognize her."

The shelter worker told Coli what to do if his marabout came. We will protect you, she said. If he tries to grab you, scream.

Days went by. Maybe weeks.

Then Coli's marabout arrived.

In 2005, Senegal made it a crime punishable by five years in prison to force a child to beg. But the same law makes an ex-

To find Coli's mother, aid workers broadcast his name on the radio in Guinea-Bissau. The names of over a dozen children also from Guinea-Bissau played in a continuous loop, like sonic homing pigeons trying to find their target.

No response. Some boys worried their parents might be dead.

"I'm sure my mother is still alive," Coli reasoned. "When I left her she was well, so why wouldn't she be well now?" Underneath his bright eyes is another worry. Will she be angry that he disobeyed his teacher?

Over the past two years, the International Organization for Migration has returned over 600 child beggars to their homes. Several had been hit by cars. Some had scars on their backs. One 10-year-old was so hungry he ate out of the trash. Soon after he returned home, he vomited worms and died.

Almost all the boys had begged on behalf of Quranic instructors in Senegal. "Cultural habits have been manipulated for the sake of exploitation," said the IOM's Laurent de Boeck, deputy regional representative for West and Central Africa.

Two months went by before a

See ISLAMIC on Page 20

Life & Style

Ferrell, Aniston film videos for Myanmar campaign

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Ferrell, Jennifer Aniston and Ellen Page are among those lending their celebrity status to a new campaign focusing attention on Myanmar's military-run government.

Jim Carrey previously filmed a public service announcement to raise awareness about the South-east Asian country, also known as Burma, and human-rights leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been confined by the government for 12 of the last 18 years.

But starting Thursday, the

message will be on a much larger scale. A video will be released each day in May starring Ferrell, Aniston, Page, Sarah Silverman, Sylvester Stallone, Anjelica Huston, Woody Harrelson and Judd Apatow, among others.

The celebs appear solo or in scenes together on behalf of the Human Rights Action Center and the U.S. Campaign for Burma.

The spots are more like short

films than PSAs, and will be blasted across the Internet on sites such as YouTube and MySpace, Jeremy Woodrum, co-founder of the U.S. Campaign for Burma, said this week.



Ferrell

In Ferrell's bit, he nods to an unseen person when he correctly pronounces the name of Suu Kyi, who's under long-term house arrest. In rare serious mode, he concludes: "Every now and again, a single person or event

captures the imagination and inspiration of the world. This moment belongs to Burma, and to Aung San Suu Kyi. Please honor her courage, honor your compassion and let this month be the month you join an effort to change the world."

Suu Kyi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her non-violent efforts to overturn the regime led by Senior Gen. Than Shwe. Suu Kyi's political party won the last general election in 1990 but was never allowed to take power. Myanmar has been

under military rule since 1962.

The country captured world attention when Buddhist monks last September began leading the biggest anti-government protests in two decades. At least 31 people were killed and thousands more were detained when military rulers cracked down on the peaceful demonstrations.

Organizers of the celebrity video campaign used their showbiz connections to bring in Ferrell and company.

Woodrum said the spots could possibly influence Myanmar's

government leaders who recognize the famous faces: "When stars speak out, it undermines the military's authority in a different kind of way than when political leaders do, and it gives support and hope to the opposition."

The campaign kicked off Thursday, the same day President Bush froze the assets of state-owned companies in Myanmar that prop up the nation's military junta, which has been condemned by the international community for suppressing pro-democracy dissidents.

THREE WISE GUYS

Air police, hairy comebacks and wise guys unveiled

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK

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Dear Wise Guys:

While driving on Interstates 66 and 81 last weekend, I saw multiple "Speed Enforced by Aircraft" signs. Is automobile speed ever really enforced by aircraft? I've never known of anyone pulled over by the police Cessna.—Ken

Joe: They don't pull vehicles over; they strafe them. That's why you see so many cars littering the highway.

Justin: Once again, Joe is a victim of his vivid imagination and complete ignorance of the facts. Let me clear this up. Last year the Virginia State Police launched 302 aerial speed enforcement operations.

"It's very effective as a deterrent," explains state police spokeswoman Corinne Geller. "And it's very good if you have stretches of interstate where you have problems with really aggressive, reckless drivers."

Here's how each operation works: A trooper in a fixed-wing Cessna observes vehicles passing between white lines painted on the highway. When he picks out a traffic offender, he determines the violator's speed and then radios a trooper on the ground to handle the pull-over.

But please, everyone, keep your eyes on the road. There are enough scary drivers in this area without a bunch of you trying to spot the flying police through your sunroofs.

■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

Recently a "funny" thing happened to me at my gym. In the locker room as I came back from the shower, I saw a young guy no more than 25 to 30 years old. As I patted myself dry, the guy was doing the same. Suddenly he said, "Wow, you are hairy." And I replied immediately, "Wow, and you are hairless."

I have always been rather hirsute, but frankly it never dawned on me it could matter to another guy. How should I handle another dumb exclamation like that? I know that body hair acts as a shield or protection by absorbing perspiration and other secretions.—Tony

Dan: If someone says, "You are Harry," you should probably correct him by saying, "No, I'm Tony."

Joe: Watch your homonyms.

Dan: Right. OK: "Wow, you are hairy." If this is just an asinine observation, I would suggest saying something about his mother knowing this for a fact—but I can't suggest this, because we're a family paper.

■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

It seems to me that you three contribute everywhere in the Sunday Source section: joking around in this column, writing feature articles, test-driving "manly" beauty products, rating music, etc. Are you just jacks-of-all-trades? What exactly are your job titles? And who is the boss?—High school journalist

Joe: Excellent observations, HSJ. We like to call ourselves "journalists of the future." (We



THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

like to call ourselves this because it implies we'll have jobs in the future.) We write and edit stories, test beauty products, painstakingly research (Wikipedia) the questions we receive for this column and craft dazzling responses.

Each of us also has to work two shifts a week in the cafeteria, help organize the company picnic and get coffee for Bob Woodward whenever he demands it. If you wake up early enough, you'll even see us delivering the paper to your doorstep.

Dan: Of all these tasks, the Woodward coffee run is the most taxing. Per his demands, we grind and brew Arabica beans from Costa Rica

and mix it with two parts cream, one part cough syrup. Then we bring the cup to a secret meeting place, where he makes us wait for 10 minutes before emerging from the shadows. If we see him ahead of time, we still have to act nervous and unaware, or else he won't slip us a five after the coffee drop.

Justin: Our boss is Deb, the editor of the Sunday Source, and she really deserves all the credit for this operation. It's a task of Herculean proportions to herd such a trio of journalistic Renaissance men. A manager of lesser ability would almost certainly be intimidated by our mix of talent, passion and looks.

ISLAMIC

From Page 19

shelter worker pulled Coli aside. His parents were alive.

■ ■ ■

The 13 boys from Guinea-Bissau pile into a bus. Coli screams with glee as it takes off for the airport.

"Is this Guinea-Bissau?" one of them asks as they descend onto the cracked runway and enter the small airport of the nation's capital. "Senegal looks better," says another.

Though Senegal is among the world's poorest nations, it's visibly more developed than Guinea-Bissau, listed 160th out of 177 countries on the U.N.'s human development index. The capital they

left had streets clogged with taxis and flashy 4-by-4s. The buildings were tall. The capital they returned to has squat, low buildings and crumbling colonial villas.

"I'm not sure I like it," Coli confides.

As the bus leaves the capital, they pass villages of cone-shaped huts and fields where boys herd bulls. They sing songs, clapping their hands. As they pull into the shelter where their parents were told to expect them, the boys fall silent.

Timidly, they file off the bus. A few of the 12- and 13-year-olds recognize their families. They approach them respectfully, shaking hands.

Coli's mother is not there.

■ ■ ■

A judge tells the parents they

will be jailed if they send their children away to beg again. They have to sign a statement promising to protect their boys from traffickers. Most are illiterate, so they leave a thumbprint in blue ink next to their names.

"You sent your kids to hell," the judge says. "You can't say that because you are poor you're going to allow your kids to be abused."

His booming voice ricochets off the cracked walls of the building. The parents stare straight ahead.

But the conditions that made these families send their children to hell still persist.

Many of the villages do not have enough food. Few have schools. In one, the schoolhouse is a bamboo enclosure that doubles as an animal corral. "We

haven't had classes here in over a year," an elderly man says as he ducks into the classroom and skirts a pile of bull manure.

The aid group pays for school fees and supplies. But the stipend cannot cover the economic worth of a child. Some of the children returned in previous months now work as bricklayers and goatherds. Others have already been sent back to the marabouts by their parents. The idea of child trafficking as a crime is so new in the region that no African language has a word for it, experts say.

With each passing day, more parents and relatives come, but not Coli's.

On the third day, the shelter pays for another radio address.

By the fourth, half the 13 chil-

dren are gone.

The others become increasingly agitated. Maybe the radio is broken, Coli muses. His wet eyes fill with the invisible color of worry.

■ ■ ■

Early on the fifth morning, a woman in a pressed peach robe walks up to the shelter.

Coli rushes outside. He stands a few feet away as tears topple down his cheeks. She covers her face with her veil and weeps.

The two sit side-by-side in plastic chairs. Coli's mother looks at her feet. Her family is poor, she says, and she wanted Coli to get an education. It took her several days to reach the shelter because she didn't have \$2 for the bus fare.

For more than an hour, Coli cries. Tears run down either side of his cheeks, forming two wa-

tery garlands. They meet at his chin and plop down on his collar bone, pooling above his shirt.

She stands up and wipes his chin. They leave, crossing the dusty boulevard.

Her arm reaches around his shoulder and the long sleeve of her robe falls around the little boy. It hides him from the remaining children, who silently watch Coli go home.

■ ■ ■

EPILOGUE:

Soon after Coli left, his marabout traveled to Guinea-Bissau. He angrily demanded to know why Coli had run away.

Ashamed, Coli's father promised to make up for the boy's bad behavior.

He is sending the marabout two more sons.

Reports: Mariah Carey marries actor Nick Cannon

NEW YORK (AP)—Nick Cannon is cast as Mariah Carey's lover in her new video—but has the superstar diva given the young actor a considerably bigger role in real life?

According to several published reports, Carey, 38, married Cannon, 27, on Wednesday. Neither Carey's publicist nor Cannon's manager returned requests from The Associated Press for comment.

If the pair did indeed wed, it would be a whirlwind romance. Word that the two were seeing each other first surfaced in the past few weeks. Last Saturday, Carey was seen sporting a huge diamond ring on her finger at the Tribeca Film Festival premiere of her movie, "Tennessee," in which she plays a waitress. Cannon was at her side at the party. Speculation swirled that the couple were engaged.

Latina.com was first to report that the two got married, at Carey's home in the Bahamas. Friday's New York Post also had the pair wed. People magazine on its Web site Friday quoted a clergyman, Bishop Clifford Petty of the National Church of God in the Caribbean, as saying he presided over the wedding.

E Online quoted a relative of Cannon's as saying that he called his family and confirmed the news.

"He called us and told us all about it. We are happy for him. If that is what he wants, then we are happy for him," Linda Cannon, identified simply as a family member, was quoted telling E.



In this April 26, 2008 file photo, Mariah Carey attends the premiere of "Tennessee" at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

People reported Friday that Carey had obtained a marriage license on the island of Eleuthera, in the Bahamas, where she has an estate.

Cannon has put out a rap album but

is best known for his role in the movie "Drumline" and a Nickelodeon TV series (yes, Nickelodeon - Cannon is 11 years Carey's junior). He's featured in Carey's upcoming video for "Bye Bye."

While Carey and Cannon (or is it the Cannons?) were playing coy, the famed jeweler Jacob & Co. was quick to publicize its apparent role in the reputed union with a news release touting the

ring Cannon reportedly gave her.

The release described it as "crafted from platinum and features a square emerald cut fancy light pink diamond as the center stone surrounded by 58 intense pink diamonds and two half moon diamonds on each side.

"The total carat weight of the ring—center stone is 10 carats—is a jaw-dropping 17 carats with a value of \$2.5 million."

Cannon does have experience with engagement rings. The actor, who has previously romanced singer Christina Milian and voluptuous reality star Kim Kardashian, last year gave a 15-carat stone to Victoria's Secret model Selita Ebanks as he proposed in grand fashion—on the Jumbotron in New York's Times Square. Cameras were flashing as she said yes. They split just a few months later.

The Carey-Cannon match is already getting considerably more ink, leaving some to wonder whether it's a publicity stunt: After all, she's just released a No. 1 album ("EMC2" is on the top of the charts), and he has at least four movies due out this year.

But then again, Carey is one of the most successful artists in music, and hardly needs a marriage to get attention: She's already scored a No. 1 hit off the album with "Touch My Body."

This would be Cannon's first marriage but Carey's second. She famously wed top music executive Tommy Motola in an extravagant wedding in 1993. They had a bitter divorce in 1998.

Lohan mugshot used in liquor industry ad

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan is not exactly toasting her latest public appearance. A mugshot of the 21-year-old actress, who has been in and out of rehab after two arrests last year on drunken driving and cocaine charges, was prominently featured Friday in an advertisement attacking legislation for devices that measure a driver's blood alcohol level before their vehicle can start.

The full-page black-and-white ad appeared in USA Today on Friday and was paid for by the American Beverage Institute, a trade group that supports the interests of the alcohol industry. The ad reads "Ignition interlocks are a good idea for" above Lohan's mug shot from her July 24, 2007 arrest and "But a bad idea for us" above smaller photos of people drinking.

"The reason that we used Lindsay Lohan is because she's had multiple DUIs that have been high profile," American Beverage Institute managing director Sarah Longwell told The Associated Press. "We needed to create the distinction for the public what someone with multiple DUIs looked like versus a low blood-alcohol-level first-time offender."

Lawmakers in several states have passed bills that would require drunken driving offenders to pay for and install an ignition interlock system. Under many such laws, the interlock requirement extends to first-time offenders driving while "highly

intoxicated" - or with a blood alcohol level of 0.15 percent or higher.

The ad suggested that ignition interlocks were fine for "hard-core" drunk drivers, but suggested they would bring an end to champagne toasts at weddings, wine at dinner and ballgame beers.

"USA Today is idiotic to run such an irresponsible advertisement suggesting that drinking and driving is some kind of American 'tradition' we should protect," Lohan's lawyer Blair Berk said in a statement. "Not identifying that this ad was paid for by the liquor and restaurant industries is profoundly reckless."

"Drunk white businessmen, drunk housewives out for girls night out and drunk wedding parties should be kept off the roads of America," Berk continued. "Lindsay Lohan fully endorses ignition interlock devices, which have been well-proven to save lives."

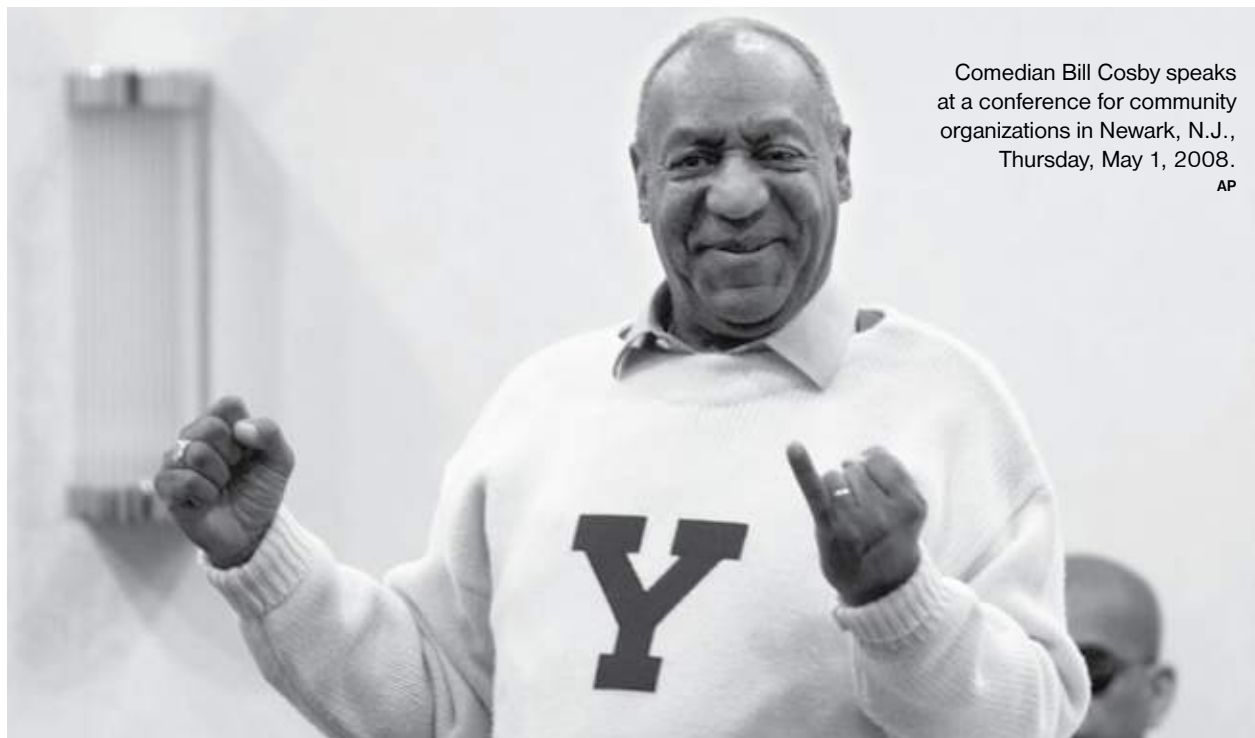
The American Beverage Institute stood by its use of Lohan's image.

"People magazine, Smoking Gun and a lot of people have republished this mug shot," said Longwell. "It was publicly accessible. We're not using it for any kind of commercial gain. So we're well within our rights to use it."

Reached for comment about Berk's statement, USA Today spokesman Ed Cassidy issued the following statement: "Advocacy advertising is a big part of what we do. Our pages function as forum for competing views."



Lohan



Comedian Bill Cosby speaks at a conference for community organizations in Newark, N.J., Thursday, May 1, 2008.

AP

Cosby brings 'blunt' message to community leaders

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Bill Cosby told several hundred people at a conference of community associations Thursday to stand up and confront the ills facing black Americans.

Repeating a mantra that has angered some black leaders who have accused him of downplaying the effects of long-term discrimination, he exhorted the audience several times to "stop looking for somebody to blame."

Characterizing his own words as "blunt, but not harsh," the 70-year-old comedian criticized a culture in which "babies are wearing \$40 sneakers while their mothers are feeding them Oodles of Noodles."

Cosby deemed some of his critics "intellectual panhandlers" who enable destructive behavior by staying silent or blaming racism.

"You've got these idiots who've got

these degrees and some of them are ordained ministers and they say, 'Bill, you're picking on the poor,'" he said. He then drew laughs by adding, "Well, so did Jesus then. Jesus was always telling someone, 'Go ye.' Jesus was always telling people to go somewhere. And 'don't do this again or don't do that again.'"

Wearing a sweater with a Yale University logo in honor of Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker, a Yale Law School graduate, Cosby saved some of most pointed words for radio stations that play music that he called "pro-murder and anti-women" and said adults are equally complicit if they fail to speak up.

"I haven't seen the demonstrations saying, 'I'm not allowing my children to listen to this,'" he said. "It's killing us. We're not talking about it, and we're not beating it down."

The longtime performer, whose sit-

com "The Cosby Show" was top-rated in the 1980s, has recorded a hip-hop album set for release next month. "Cosby Narratives Vol. 1: State of Emergency" blends his concepts and stories with a hip-hop, pop and jazz soundtrack.

Thursday's conference was hosted by Family Intervention Services and Newark Now, an organization formed by Booker.

The mayor called Cosby "a critical voice right now in the American context" and praised his willingness to speak out on issues without bowing to political correctness.

"This is a time for candor—we can't beat around the bush," Booker said. "We've got large percentages of our population that are underachieving. He's speaking to the heart of the matter, and he speaks to the realities of what a lot of folks are experiencing."

Good reviews for Cruise on Winfrey show

CHICAGO (AP)—Tom Cruise went back to where his run of negative publicity began: On a couch, next to Oprah Winfrey. But unlike his couch-jumping appearance on Winfrey's show three years ago, this time Cruise was serious, thoughtful and tried to defend his personal beliefs without seeming overbearing during an hourlong interview broadcast Friday.

Several entertainment-focused public relations experts said that's a smart approach.

"I think Tom learned his lesson. The lesson was that sometimes your personal beliefs can get in the way of the projects," said Howard Bragman, founder of Los Angeles PR firm Fifteen Minutes. "And you don't want people to be turned off to you so that they're turned off to your projects."

Winfrey's interview with Cruise, 45, was taped at his Telluride, Colo., home. Another show, billed as a celebration of Cruise's 25-year career in movies, was taped before an audience at Winfrey's Chicago studio and is being aired Monday.

The back-to-back interviews appear to be part of an effort to put the bad patch of PR behind him and get people talking about his career again, instead of his personal life.

Answering a question about whether he feels he comes under attack unnecessarily because of his belief in the

Church of Scientology, Cruise said he understood the interest in "a minority religion."

But from now on, he said, "when I'm dealing with my humanitarian issues, I'll talk about my humanitarian issues, and when I'm promoting a film, I'm just going to promote the film. And that's just the way it's going to be."

Hollywood media expert Michael Levine said Cruise would "do well to cool the Scientology stuff. That's grown very wearisome for a lot of Americans. ... There's certainly no problem with him stating his religious choice is different from the majority, but when he gets aggressive and starts pushing it, there is some blowback."

Cruise's handling of the Winfrey interview was a good step, Levine said, but it's just part of a process during which Cruise will have to avoid doing things that compel the media to write negatively about him.

"When you're in a hole, quit digging," said Levine, founder of Los Angeles-based Levine Communications Office.

Cruise is in talks to star in a fourth "Mission: Impossible" film, which would represent a reunion between the actor and Viacom Chairman Sumner Redstone, who severed a 14-year relationship with Cruise and his producing partner, Paula Wagner, in August 2006.



Actor Tom Cruise, left, and his daughter Isabella, 2nd left, and his son Connor, right, attend the MLS soccer match between the Los Angeles Galaxy and Chivas USA in Carson, Calif., Saturday, April 26, 2008.

Redstone booted the pair from the Paramount lot and ended their lucrative deal to develop projects for the studio, citing Cruise's "recent conduct" for the split, which came after the couch-hopping incident and his tussle with "Today" show host Matt Lauer over antidepressant drugs.

At the time, Redstone called

Cruise "someone who effectuates creative suicide," but the Viacom chief and Cruise were spotted dining together in Beverly Hills in March.

Cruise's last movie, "Lions for Lambs," was the first release from MGM's United Artists banner since Cruise and Wagner took it over in late 2006. Also

starring Robert Redford and Meryl Streep, it was box-office dud. But that's been the fate of most movies concerning the Middle East and the war on terror in recent years.

His next starring role is as a World War II German officer in "Valkyrie." Its release was recently pushed back from Oct.

3 until President's Day weekend starting Feb. 13, 2009.

But first, Cruise is gathering great buzz for a cameo in the upcoming Ben Stiller comedy "Tropic Thunder," as a mostly bald, fat studio chief.

Comedy might be a good avenue for Cruise to explore, Levine said. "Nothing mitigates tension like humor," he said.

Winfrey and a subdued, jeans-wearing Cruise conducted the interview on an overstuffed couch in the family's living room before ending the show with Cruise taking Winfrey snowmobiling.

Cruise said his couch-jumping was an authentic way of expressing his feelings for Katie Holmes—and a moment he's not sure he would take back.

Holmes, now his wife, welcomed Winfrey to the couple's home at the top of the show. She then left Cruise to conduct a tour, which included a peek at daughter Suri's playrooms, the home's kitchen, Cruise's collection of bound film scripts, and stunning views of snow-topped mountains.

About a month after his last appearance on Winfrey's show, Cruise criticized Brooke Shields for taking anti-depression drugs after the birth of her child. He also berated Lauer for suggesting that psychiatric treatment might help some patients.

Cruise said he regretted his views "came out wrong."

'Paula Abdul isn't going anywhere'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For starters, Paula Abdul isn't going anywhere. "Why would we get rid of Paula?" wonders Cecile Frot-Coutaz matter-of-factly, when questioned about possibly nixing the wacky "American Idol" judge now infamous for - among other things - critiquing both of Jason Castro's songs after he'd sung only one.

All the chatter about Abdul's slip-up during Tuesday's "Idol" performance show doesn't faze the Fremantle-Media North America CEO and "Idol" executive producer. Nor did the subsequent speculation about the singing competition's authenticity.

And really, why should it?

"I love that everyone was talking about it," she told The Associated Press over lunch in her office two days after the show. "It was so unexpected. It was something that took up 2 seconds of airtime. You'd think there was no other news on television."

To Abdul's credit, the incident happened following an on-the-fly format switch.

"We thought it would be a good opportunity for the

judges to give the contestants a good kick in the butt and tell them they were going to have to kick it up a notch for the second song," said Frot-Coutaz. "That decision happened during the live broadcast. It was at the very last minute, so Paula wasn't planning on doing any judging."

In the moment, Abdul claimed she skipped ahead to her notes on another contestant. It was later revealed the gaffe happened because she had scrawled some impressions on Castro when—gasp!—she saw his dress rehearsal.

This practice, revealed many times over in seasons past but not scrutinized until now, is hardly grounds for termination. To Frot-Coutaz, it's not even cause for blame.

"It's not her fault," she said.

Frot-Coutaz - who oversees development, production and business operations of "Idol" and several other U.S. series, including NBC's "America's Got Talent" and the CW's "Farmer Wants a Wife" - said Abdul is "great for the show" and called her a "great team player."



Abdul

He's coming out: Diddy announces himself in Hollywood

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—When the one-man, publicity-generating whirlwind that is Diddy met the well-oiled hype machine of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, sparks were bound to fly.

Sean Combs received a star Friday on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, an event most honorees mark by turning up at the assigned time, smiling for cameras and going about their business.

Not Combs.

He put a video online asking fans to show up for the star-unveiling, set to the tune of Lupe Fiasco's hit "Superstar." He sat down at the Beverly Hills Hotel for advance interviews with infotainment TV shows and The Associated Press. And he's being feted with a lavish party Friday night at billionaire Ron Burkle's sprawling Beverly Hills estate.

"It's also like my coming-out party here in Hollywood," Combs told AP. "I don't have nothing to hide about that. If I'm going to come someplace, I'm going to make some noise, and you're going to know I'm here."

Fellow actor Jamie Foxx was on hand to introduce Combs as his star was revealed.

"He throws the best party you've ever seen in your entire life," said Foxx, who led dozens of people in a chant of "Diddy! Diddy! Diddy!" and

rapped out famous choruses of the artist's songs.

"This is big. This is legendary," Foxx told the music label intern-turned-entertainment mogul. "And they will never be able

career. To that end, he's looking through scripts in search of the next role.

He calls it a perfect time to stop and reflect on recent successes. Two of his "Making the Band"



Sean Diddy Combs poses with his new star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame during dedication ceremonies in Los Angeles Friday, May 2, 2008.

to take this away from you."

Combs, wearing a white suit, slapped hands with Foxx and told the crowd: "Today is proof that if you believe, all your dreams can come true. I've gone from Harlem to Hollywood." He lay down on the red carpet next to his star to pose for photographers.

Combs is house-hunting in Los Angeles now, and plans to split his time between here and New York to pursue his acting

groups—Danity Kane's second album and Day26's first—just landed at the top of the Billboard charts. His ABC movie "A Raisin in the Sun" was a hit with critics and viewers in February.

"Sometimes you got to take a step back and breathe and enjoy and realize the magnitude of it, where you came from, how hard you worked, all the people that rode with you through your ups and downs," Combs said.

Family and friends from the

block he grew up on in New York's Harlem neighborhood joined him at the ceremony outside the Hollywood and Highland shopping complex.

"It inspires them," Combs said. "It inspires, you know, millions of young people all over the world that are in a place that I grew up in right now, and they want to make it to that point. I don't know if we know where Brad Pitt came from, or George Clooney."

"People are familiar with my journey, so it may inspire them more," Combs said. "So whether it's Eminem or Britney Spears or myself, you know of that journey. Whether it's coming from a small town, coming from a trailer park in Detroit, or coming from Harlem, New York. So when certain things happen to us, it's bigger than us. It inspires people."

What about that party, which was sure to inspire a few paparazzi in the direction of Burkle's mansion? Combs calls it an "intimate 250-person party" with "just very very close friends and family and people that I know throughout the industry."

The constant salesman drops shout-outs to sponsors Ciroc vodka and Cadillac, but wouldn't reveal the guest list - except to note that David Beckham couldn't make it. Becks was playing a game in Utah on Saturday.



In this image released by Harpo Productions, journalist Barbara Walters, left, holds the hand of Oprah Winfrey during an interview for "The Oprah Winfrey Show," in April, scheduled to air on Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

Walters reveals past affair with US senator

NEW YORK (AP)—After three decades of keeping mum, Barbara Walters now says she had a past affair with married U.S. Senator Edward Brooke, whom she remembers as "exciting" and "brilliant."

Appearing on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" scheduled to air Tuesday, Walters shares details of her relationship with Brooke that lasted several years in the 1970s, according to a transcript of the show provided to The Associated Press.

A moderate Republican from Massachusetts who took office in 1967, Brooke was the first African-American to be popularly elected to the Senate. Both he and Walters knew that public knowledge of their affair could have ruined his career as well as

hers, Walters says.

At the time, the twice-divorced Walters was a rising star in TV news and co-host of NBC's "Today" show, but would soon jump to ABC News, where she has enjoyed unrivaled success. Her affair with Brooke, which never before came to light, had ended before he lost his bid for a third term in 1978.

Brooke later divorced, and has since remarried. Calls to a listing for Brooke in Miami by The Associated Press were not immediately returned Thursday.

Walters is the guest of Oprah Winfrey to discuss her new memoir, "Audition," which covers her long career in television, as well as her off-camera life. On "Oprah," Walters recounts a phone call from a

friend who urged her to stop seeing Brooke.

"He said, 'This is going to come out. This is going to ruin your career,'" then reminded her that Brooke was up for reelection a year later. "This is going to ruin him. You've got to break this off."

Winfrey asks Walters if she was in love.

"I was certainly—I don't know—I was certainly infatuated."

"Infatuated."

"I was certainly involved," Walters says. "He was exciting. He was brilliant. It was exciting times in Washington."

Also during the program, Walters chokes up while describing the struggles of her older sister Jackie, who was mentally re-

tarded. Walters confesses that, as a child, she sometimes felt embarrassed by Jackie.

"She stuttered terribly. People made fun of her. People made fun of me," Walters says. "I didn't bring friends home. I felt terribly guilty because she was very loving and I didn't always feel that way."

Jackie Walters died in 1985 of ovarian cancer.

"When I think of her, because she was beautiful and loving and all of that, it makes me cry."

Brooke served two full terms from 1967 to 1979, taking on the populist causes of low-income housing, increasing the minimum wage and mass transit. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004, an honor only 21 U.S. senators have received.

Paternity test shows Brown fathered boy

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—An attorney says a DNA test confirms James Brown fathered the son of a woman who claimed to be the singer's wife when he died.

Peter Shahid, an attorney for James Brown II, said Friday that the boy was tested in April before a South Carolina judge ordered a paternity test.



Brown

The results of the court-ordered test have not been released. The boy is the 6-year-old son of Tomi Rae Hynie, a former backup singer for the "Godfather of Soul."

Trustees handling Brown's estate have suggested that Hynie was not legally married to Brown and that her boy is not his son. They were not mentioned in Brown's will.

A call to a spokesman for Hynie and a message left for Brown's trustees were not returned.

Brown died in December 2006.

'HSM3' begins filming in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—In real life, Zac Efron is just as cute—maybe cuter—than he is dancing and singing as Troy Bolton in Disney's wildly popular "High School Musical" movies. That's the assessment from 10-year-old Eden Withers, who got a close look at Efron during a news conference at East High School to mark the filming of "High School Musical 3: Senior Year."

Her seat among a bunch of reporters came courtesy of her dad, who runs the Salt Lake City School District.

"I just really, really like the show and I think Zac is cute," Eden said with a blushing giggle and grin.

"HSM3" begins filming here Saturday and opens in movie theaters Oct. 24.

The third installment finds basketball star Troy and pals Gabriella, Sharpay, Ryan, Chad and Taylor facing graduation and choices about their future.

Will it be basketball or the theater? Will Troy and Gabriella stay a couple or split to attend different colleges?

Efron and co-stars Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale, Corb-



Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens pose for pictures after a news conference for the new movie "High School Musical 3" on Friday, May 2, 2008, at East High School in Salt Lake City.

in Bleu and Monique Coleman weren't dishing any secrets Friday, the last day of rehearsals.

Cast members claim they're not feeling pressure to top the success of the two previous films.

The franchise debuted in 2006 as a Disney Channel original movie and quickly became an international hit seen by more than 250 million viewers in 100 countries and 20 languages.

The sequel's August 2007 premiere was seen by 18.6 million viewers, becoming the top

basic cable telecast of all time. Disney says the DVD release topped all sales records for 2007 and the movie's soundtrack went triple platinum.

"I kind of think of it as the third act," said Efron, whose turn as Troy opened the door to roles in other films. "This is the third movie. We're not looking to top anything, just to do it justice."

The only pressure, said Hudgens, is making the movie for the big screen, not TV.

Teen not ready to propose to girlfriend seeking promise

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: For the last three years I have been dating this girl, "Annie," whom I love very much. We're both 18, and I am starting college in the fall and plan to go into the military.

My problem is that Annie is already talking about marriage and kids. I am now hearing from some of her friends that she's disappointed I haven't given her a promise ring yet. I'm not against giving her one, but I'm not sure I'm mentally prepared for the next step.

I don't want Annie to think I don't care for her, because I do. She is perfect. I just need some advice from someone outside the family. What do you think I should do?

UNDECIDED



Dear Abby

DEAR UNDECIDED: Lay your cards on the table with Annie. Tell her that, although you think she is "perfect," you're not ready to propose—or even promise that you will. You are about to enter college, but you did not mention what her plans are.

Allow me to offer more advice. You and Annie have been involved since your sophomore year of high school. You would both be better served to continue your education, date others for a while, and grow as individuals before making any lifetime commitments.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have gone to a family-owned hair salon for more than 10 years. I love my stylist, "Suzie," and the other employees. The salon has a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. However, I think that Suzie, who is one of the owners, has become "too" comfortable.

She's constantly on the phone during my appointments. I wouldn't mind if Suzie picked up the phone when the receptionist was busy, but most of the calls are from family members involved in some sort of drama or crisis. During a single appointment there are often multiple calls, some extremely long.

It seems like styling has become Suzie's "side" job, which is interfering with her "emergency counseling" practice. I feel I'm paying a lot of money for very little attention. Is this how salons are run today? Am I wrong to expect her undivided attention? How can I express my dissatisfaction without ruining our relationship?

MIFFED IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR MIFFED: Hairdressing is a business, and the behavior you have described is unprofessional. Hairdressing involves far more than twisting and trimming tresses. It also involves concentration, and you are being shortchanged in that department.

You do not have to be rude in asserting yourself, just firm. Tell Suzie that you expect more of her attention than she has been devoting to you, or nothing will change. You'll actually be doing her a favor. Her inattention to her business could lose her clients in droves, because I'm sure you're not the only person she's treating this way.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary soon. We do not want a party or gifts. However, I would like to send out an announcement with a recent family photo commemorating the occasion. In other words, I'd like to share my entire family with friends who haven't seen my grandchildren. Is this proper?

MR. AND MRS. P. IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR MR. AND MRS. P: To send an announcement and photo before the event could seem like a solicitation. However, if you do it after your anniversary—with a short note explaining that you thought they might enjoy seeing all three generations—I see nothing improper about it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Hawks beat Celtics again in Atlanta, force Game 7



ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks just won't let go of their first trip to the postseason in nine years. The playoff team with the worst record did it again to the team with the best mark, forcing an improbable Game 7 with the Boston Celtics, as Joe Johnson hit a crucial 3-pointer with 1:07 remaining and the Hawks held on for a 103-100 victory Friday night.

The Hawks, just 37-45 during the regular season, have now beaten the Celtics three times in the space of a week to set up a deciding game in a series that was supposed to be a sweep. After all, Boston went an NBA-leading 66-16 and defeated Atlanta in all three meetings before the playoffs.

But, against all odds, the Hawks are heading to Boston for Game 7 on Sunday.

"Seven! Seven! Seven!" chanted the record crowd of 20,425 at Philips Arena.

The Celtics are still the favorite, having won all three games on their home court in the series by an average of 22 points. But the Hawks have lasted longer than anyone would have expected.

Marvin Williams led the Hawks with 18 points despite missing much of the fourth quarter with a sprained left knee. Kevin Garnett had 22 for the Celtics and Ray Allen added 20, but Paul Pierce—the other member of Boston's Big Three—fouled out on a disputed call in the fourth quarter.

The Celtics had a chance af-

ter pounding the boards for five chances on one possession before Kendrick Perkins was fouled by Al Horford. Perkins made both free throws with 1:32 left to pull Boston within 97-95.

Johnson, who went to the final period with just seven points on 3-of-9 shooting, came alive in the fourth. He saved his biggest shot for the end, getting James Posey in the air with a pump fake before hitting Atlanta's only 3-pointer of the game to make it 100-95.

Pierce sat on the bench with a towel over his head, unable to watch.

Posey got Johnson back by hitting a tough 3 from the wing with 48 seconds left, and the Celtics had a chance when Johnson missed a runner in the lane.

Wanting to finish off the pesky Hawks, the Celtics drew up a play to give Allen a look from beyond the arc. He missed, though; Johnson grabbed the rebound, was fouled and hit two free throws with 10.6 seconds left.

After a quick basket by Garnett, Mike Bibby made only one of two free throws with 7.4 seconds to go, giving the Celtics a shot at forcing overtime. But the Hawks kept the ball from Allen and Posey, forcing Rajon Rondo to launch a long 3 that didn't even hit the rim as the horn sounded.

For the third time in the series, streamers poured from the Philips Arena rafters. Zaza Pachulia, who played a key role off the bench, grabbed a microphone to salute the joyous crowd.

"We're going to Game 7!



Atlanta Hawks guard Josh Childress reacts as time runs out in Game 6 of a first-round NBA playoff basketball series against the Boston Celtics, Friday, May 2, 2008 in Atlanta.

Woooooowoooo!" he screamed.

After the Hawks scored the first basket, Boston led until early in the fourth. The Celtics were up by 12 in the second and

nine in the third, looking to finally put away Atlanta.

But, as they did twice in Game 4 on their home court, the Hawks refused to fold.

They finally reclaimed the lead with just over 11 minutes remaining, when Williams soared for the rebound of Bibby's missed 3 and laid it in to put the Hawks ahead 83-82.

From there, the teams went back and forth until a crucial play knocked out Pierce and gave the Hawks some breathing room.

Josh Childress scored on a brilliant slashing move off the baseline, holding the ball high above the hoop before he dropped it in with 4:44 left. Pierce was called for his sixth foul away from the play fighting for rebounding position with Pachulia. The Boston star was livid over the call, ripping off his trademark headband and standing under the basket in disbelief.

The officials called a technical on Pierce while "Hit The Road Jack" blared throughout the arena. Johnson made the free throw, giving the Hawks a 96-89 lead.

Williams twisted his knee awkwardly trying to guard Pierce on a drive through the lane early in the fourth. The Hawks initially announced the third-year forward would not return, but he checked in to play defense with 20 seconds to go, still hobbling.

All five Atlanta starters scored in double figures. Besides Williams' 18, Bibby had 17, rookie Al Horford 16, Johnson 15, and Josh Smith—who played less than 30 minutes because of foul trouble—finished with 11. Off the bench, Childress had 15 points and six rebounds, while Pachulia contributed nine points and six rebounds.

Cavaliers 105, Wizards 88

In Washington, LeBron James compiled 27 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists for his third career playoff triple-double, giving Cleveland a 4-2 series victory and a place in the second round.

Wally Szczerbiak added a career playoff-best 26 points and reserve Daniel Gibson had 22, combining for 10 of Cleveland's 11 3-pointers.

James also picked up a technical foul, one of three called in a fittingly rough finale to a series that featured plenty of trash talk, hard fouls, one ejection and one suspension—Washington's Darius Songaila was barred from Friday's game for hitting James in the face in Game 5.

Caron Butler finished with 18 points and nine rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Jazz 113, Rockets 91

In Salt Lake City, Utah beat Houston to win the series 4-2 and knock the Rockets out of the playoffs in the opening round for the second straight year.

Deron Williams scored 13 of his 25 points in the decisive third quarter for the Jazz, who were determined to avoid a Game 7 in Houston, site of their embarrassing 95-69 loss in Game 5. Instead, the Jazz are headed to Los Angeles and open the second round against the Lakers on Sunday.

Tracy McGrady scored 40 for the Rockets, but could not beat the Jazz by himself and fell to 0-7 in playoff series.

Marcum wins pitching duel as Blue Jays shut down White Sox



TORONTO (AP)—Toronto's Shaun Marcum won a pitching duel to lead the Blue Jays to a 2-0 win over the Chicago White Sox in the American League on Friday.

Marcum matched Chicago's Mark Buehrle pitch for pitch and Shannon Stewart drove in the only runs for Toronto.

Marcum struck out nine and won for the first time in three starts, lowering his ERA to 2.70. He allowed just two hits, both singles.

Buehrle gave up only two runs—both unearned—in eight innings.

Yankees 5, Mariners 1

In New York, Chien-Ming Wang became the American League's first six-game winner this season, ending New York's three-game losing streak by downing Seattle.

Wang pitched shutout ball into the sixth inning. The Yankees improved to 27-7 when Wang starts following a loss, winning 11 in a row. He's even more consistent against Seattle, with seven wins against the Mariners in as many career starts.

Orioles 4, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Jeremy Guthrie won for the first time in 16 starts as Baltimore downed Los Angeles to start a 10-game road trip with a win.

Nick Markakis and Melvin Mora each drove in two runs for the Orioles.

Guthrie got his first win since July last year. The right-hander allowed only three hits over seven innings.

Twins 11, Tigers 1

In Minneapolis, Livan Hernandez baffled Detroit's sluggers for seven innings to give Minnesota victory.

The Twins then beat up the Tigers' normally reliable bullpen.

Hernandez gave up just one run to bounce back from a horrendous start in Texas, and the Twins scored four runs in the seventh inning to get some breathing room in their third straight win.

The defeat was a letdown for a Tigers outfit coming off its first sweep of the Yankees in New York since 1966.

Rangers 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, Milton

Bradley had three hits against his former team as Texas downed Oakland.

The Rangers took advantage of four errors to post its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Red Sox 7, Rays 3

In Boston, Dustin Pedroia drove in three runs, including a two-run single in a five-run fourth inning, as Boston beat Tampa Bay.

The start was delayed 2 hours, 27 minutes by rain. Only a couple thousand fans remained in Fenway Park when the game ended at 12:48 a.m. local time.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 3

In St. Louis, Skip Schumaker hit a two-run homer in the 11th inning to give the St. Louis Cardinals a victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Schumaker clubbed the one-out pitch into the stands, getting struggling closing pitcher Jason Isringhausen off the hook after he had given up the lead in the ninth inning.

Schumaker has connected for the go-ahead hit in three of the Cardinals' past seven victories.

Isringhausen has blown two

of his past three save chances.

Braves 2, Reds 0

In Atlanta, the home side ended a four-game losing streak by closing down Cincinnati.

Tim Hudson pitched his 11th career shutout and Brian McCann hit a two-run homer for the Braves, who finally won a close game. Atlanta is a league worst 0-9 in games decided by one run.

Hudson struck out 10 and walked none. McCann's sixth homer of the season came in the fourth, sending the Reds to their third straight loss.

With just one victory in his previous three starts, Hudson gave the Braves' ailing pitching staff a boost after John Smoltz said before the game that he's likely to return from injury as Atlanta's closer instead of rejoining the rotation.

Phillies 6, Giants 5, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Pat Burrell hit a storybook homer in the bottom of the 10th inning, lifting Philadelphia over San Francisco.

The Giants had taken a one-run lead in the top of the tenth, before Burrell—with two outs

on the board and the count at 3-2—crunched a pitch into the left-field seats.

Mets 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Jose Reyes had four hits and almost hit for the cycle as New York downed Arizona.

Reyes, who had two triples and scored three times, was thrown out at home plate in the eighth inning while trying to complete the cycle with an inside-the-park homer.

Dodgers 11, Rockies 6

In Denver, Los Angeles won its seventh straight game by overpowering Colorado.

Rafael Furcal had three hits, including a three-run homer in a seven-run sixth inning.

Pirates 11, Nationals 4

In Washington, the home side's season-high four-game winning streak came to an end at the hands of Pittsburgh.

Jose Bautista homered twice and drove in four runs for the Pirates, who won after both teams were forced to sit out a 25-minute power failure in the

fourth inning.

The Pirates bullpen gave up just one hit in five innings.

Pittsburgh scored six runs in the third, sending nine men to the plate.

Astros 7, Brewers 4

In Houston, Miguel Tejada, Lance Berkman and Carlos Lee hit consecutive home runs in a four-run sixth inning as Houston downed Milwaukee.

The Astros trailed 4-2 before Tejada's two-run shot to left with one out in the sixth. Berkman followed with his home run to almost the exact same spot, and after a brief conference on the mound, Lee smacked a third.

Marlins 6, Padres 4

In Miami, Dan Uggla hit two home runs, leading Florida over San Diego.

Mark Hendrickson pitched seven effective innings, allowing five hits as the Marlins ended a three-game losing slump.

Uggla's second homer, a three-run shot that traveled over the left-field scoreboard, was followed by a homer from Luis Gonzalez. It was the third time the Marlins hit back-to-back home runs this season.

Bohn takes Wachovia lead as Mickelson fades



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—As Phil Mickelson’s round imploded with a series of wayward shots, the Wachovia Championship flew in a different direction.

Jason Bohn fired a 5-under 67 on Friday to take a two-shot lead at 9 under after the second round, while Mickelson’s double bogey on Quail Hollow Club’s easiest hole began a horrible closing stretch that left him seven shots back.

Anthony Kim’s 67 put him at 7 under and alone in second place, while 2006 champion Jim Furyk, Dudley Hart and George McNeill were three strokes back after 67s.

Mickelson, the biggest draw in this event with defending champion Tiger Woods home nursing his surgically repaired left knee, finished with two double bogeys in his final four holes on the way to a 74.

While Mickelson was hitting his ball into the creek on No. 18 for another double bogey, the loose Bohn was joking with reporters.

Bohn, whose sixth-place finish at the Verizon Heritage two weeks ago secured his playing privileges after his injury-filled 2007, followed his 68 Thursday

with six birdies and a bogey.

“I’m just excited to play. I don’t have a lot of pressure now that my medical status is taken care of,” Bohn said. “I can just go out and free swing it.”

Mickelson’s free swinging got him into trouble, a day after a 68 left him a shot behind first-round leader David Toms.

With an afternoon tee time Friday, Mickelson birdied the 10th hole to get to 6 under. He missed a birdie putt at No. 14, then strolled to the par-5 15th looking to pick up at least a shot with the leaders at 8 under.

The 15th had a scoring average of about 4 1/2, and is the last good chance to gain ground before the difficult closing three holes.

But Mickelson pulled his tee shot into the left rough. His second shot was even worse, going nearly straight left. While the ball just cleared the water, it nestled in a horrible lie of pine straw at the base of a tree.

Mickelson hacked at his sunken ball, and it dribbled 30 feet. His fourth shot landed in front of the greenside bunker. A chip shot and two putts later, Mickelson had a 7 and had fallen five shots behind after Bohn had birdied the same hole in the group ahead of him.

Mickelson parred 16 and 17 before his waterlogged finish

left him with plenty of work to do to win this tournament for the first time.

“There was a low round out there and I let it slide,” Mickelson said. “The last four or five holes, I made a few mistakes that cost me.”

Toms, who has been fighting a sore back for two years, couldn’t build off his best round this year. The 41-year-old Toms slogged through a 3-over 75 that left him tied with Mickelson for 25th place.

With Toms and Mickelson struggling, Bohn shot ahead of them on the strength of some changes he’s made with veteran coach Mike Shannon.

“The biggest change for me is that my putter was lengthened an inch,” said Bohn, who was held to 17 tournaments last year due to a rib injury. “My coach has been wanting to do this for almost two years now. I just didn’t feel comfortable.

“Finally I wisened up and listened to him.”

Bohn will be paired on the final group Saturday with the 22-year-old Kim, who also has taken a different approach. But for Kim, it’s mental.

A year after he had four top-10s as the PGA Tour’s youngest rookie and a third-place finish early this year at the Bob Hope

Chrysler Classic, the confident Kim fell on hard times. He missed three cuts before rebounding to finish tied for second at the Verizon Heritage last month.

“I just realized that I wasn’t putting in the time, and to play against the best players in the world, you have to do that,” said Kim, who recently switched to veteran caddy Eric Larsen. “I think if I practice hard, anything is possible. I guess I was just talking a little bit more than I was practicing. So this year I’ve changed that and I’m going to keep riding that wave.”

The old-style, tree-lined setup included more wind and faster greens than Thursday, and the scoring was up—minus Jay Williamson’s hole-in-one at No. 6.

McNeill had one of the wildest rounds, with six birdies, an eagle and three straight bogeys. Furyk and Dudley, meanwhile, took advantage of their early wake-up calls.

“It was really nice to get a morning tee time,” said Furyk, who is 1-1 in playoffs at this tournament. “I played probably six holes where it was pretty benign out there, where there was really no breeze, a little moisture on the greens. But the wind picked up at that point.”

Bohn overcame the obstacles during his afternoon round with

his longer putter. He needed only 26 putts, a day after he had 27.

“When you’re putting well, you don’t really care if you hit it to 30 feet, you really don’t,” Bohn said. “You’re like, ‘I can make this.’ Then typically you don’t it 30 feet, you start hitting

it 12 to 15 feet, and then you start running them in.

Bohn did that at par-3 13th, when his 7-iron landed 4 feet away. He knocked in the putt for birdie, offsetting his only bogey a hole earlier, to take control of the leader board.

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	13	.581	—
Baltimore	16	13	.552	1
Tampa Bay	16	13	.552	1
New York	15	16	.484	3
Toronto	13	17	.433	4 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	14	13	.519	—
Minnesota	14	14	.500	1/2
Cleveland	14	15	.483	1
Detroit	14	16	.467	1 1/2
Kansas City	12	16	.429	2 1/2

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	18	13	.581	—
Oakland	18	13	.581	—
Seattle	13	17	.433	4 1/2
Texas	12	18	.400	5 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	17	13	.567	—
New York	15	12	.556	1/2
Florida	16	13	.552	1/2
Atlanta	13	15	.464	3
Washington	12	18	.400	5

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	19	11	.633	—
Chicago	17	12	.586	1 1/2
Milwaukee	16	13	.552	2 1/2
Houston	14	16	.467	5
Pittsburgh	12	17	.414	6 1/2
Cincinnati	12	18	.400	7

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	20	9	.690	—
Los Angeles	16	13	.552	4
San Francisco	13	17	.433	7 1/2
Colorado	11	18	.379	9
San Diego	11	19	.367	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games				
Boston 7, Tampa Bay 3				
N.Y. Yankees 5, Seattle 1				
Kansas City at Cleveland, ppd., rain				
Toronto 2, Chicago White Sox 0				
Minnesota 11, Detroit 1				
Texas 4, Oakland 3				
Baltimore 4, L.A. Angels 3				
Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 5, 10 innings				
Florida 6, San Diego 4				
Atlanta 2, Cincinnati 0				
Pittsburgh 11, Washington 4				
Houston 7, Milwaukee 4				
St. Louis 5, Chicago Cubs 3, 11 innings				
L.A. Dodgers 11, Colorado 6				
N.Y. Mets 7, Arizona 2				

NBA PLAYOFF LEADERS					
Bryant, LAL	4	48	28	134	33.5
James, Clev.	5	50	44	152	30.4
Parker, S.A.	5	57	32	148	29.6
Nowitzki, Dall.	5	43	42	134	26.8
Duncan, S.A.	5	52	19	124	24.8
Paul, N.O.	5	45	30	123	24.6
Iverson, Den.	4	36	23	98	24.5
McGrady, Hou.	5	49	21	122	24.4
Bosh, Tor.	5	42	35	120	24.0
Stoudemire, Phoe.	5	48	19	116	23.2
Howard, Ori.	5	44	25	113	22.6
West, N.O.	5	45	22	113	22.6
Anthony, Den.	4	32	24	90	22.5
Gasol, LAL	4	32	25	89	22.3
J. Johnson, Atl.	5	38	22	109	21.8
Garnett, Bos.	5	42	22	107	21.4
Williams, Utah	5	35	23	100	20.0
Hamilton, Det.	6	49	18	118	19.7
Lewis, Ori.	5	35	15	95	19.0
Butler, Wash.	5	34	21	94	18.8

FG PERCENTAGE				
	FG	FGA	PCT	
Walton, LAL	22	31	.710	
Prince, Det.	44	67	.657	
Howard, Ori.	44	69	.638	
Haywood, Wash.	20	34	.588	
Kapono, Tor.	31	53	.585	
Gasol, LAL	32	55	.582	
Bell, Phoe.	21	37	.568	
Diaw, Phoe.	35	64	.547	
Kleiza, Den.	22	41	.537	
Smith, Den.	23	43	.535	

REBOUNDS					
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Ori.	5	35	56	91	18.2
Duncan, S.A.	5	27	42	69	13.8
Camby, Den.	4	11	42	53	13.3
Okur, Utah	5	10	53	63	12.6
Boozier, Utah	5	18	42	60	12.0
Nowitzki, Dall.	5	10	50	60	12.0
Jamison, Wash.	5	12	45	57	11.4
Chandler, N.O.	5	23	33	56	11.2
Horford, Atl.	5	15	41	56	11.2

Anthony, Den. 4 19 19 38 9.5
Dalembert, Phil 6 20 37 57 9.5

ASSISTS			
	G	AST	AVG
Paul, N.O.	5	60	12.0
Williams, Utah	5	42	8.4
Rondo, Bos.	5	40	8.0
Nash, Phoe.	5	39	7.8
McGrady, Hou.	5	36	7.2
Calderon, Tor.	5	35	7.0
Parker, S.A.	5	35	7.0
Kidd, Dall.	5	34	6.8
Billups, Det.	6	40	6.7
Ford, Tor.	5	33	6.6
James, Clev.	5	33	6.6

WACHOVIA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES		
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Scores from Friday's second of the \$6.4 million (€4.12 million) Wachovia Championship being played on the 7,442-yard, par-72 Quail Hollow Country Club course:		
SECOND ROUND		
Jason Bohn	68-67	135
Anthony Kim	70-67	137
Dudley Hart	71-67	138
Jim Furyk	71-67	138
George McNeill	71-67	138
Camilo Villegas	69-70	139
Heath Slocum	71-68	139
Ben Curtis	69-71	140
Paul Goydos	71-69	140
Robert Allenby	70-70	140
Steve Marino	69-71	140
John Merrick	69-71	140
Geoff Ogilvy	70-70	140
Vijay Singh	70-70	140
Dean Wilson	71-69	140
Jay Williamson	70-70	140
Brad Adamonis	70-70	140
Jeff Maggert	71-70	141
Steve Flesch	73-68	141
Hunter Mahan	71-70	141
Rod Pampling	71-70	141
Billy Mayfair	74-67	141
Fred Couples	72-69	141
Nick O'Hern	71-70	141
Carlos Franco	72-70	142
Robert Garrigus	74-68	142
Lee Janzen	72-70	142
Rory Sabbatini	70-72	142
Steve Lowery	72-72	142
Jeff Quinney	69-73	142
Ian Poulter	71-71	142
Y.E. Yang	73-69	142
Tommy Armour III	74-68	142
Phil Mickelson	68-74	142
Nick Watney	73-69	142
Boo Weekley	72-70	142
David Toms	67-75	142
Brandt Snedeker	73-69	142
Stephen Leaney	70-72	142
James Driscoll	70-72	142
Michael Allen	73-70	143
Mathew Goggin	71-72	143
Sergio Garcia	71-72	143
Stewart Cink	73-70	143
Charles Howell III	75-68	143
J.B. Holmes	71-72	143
Richard Johnson	73-70	143
Lucas Glover	73-70	143
John Senden	72-71	143
Andres Romero	72-71	143
Todd Hamilton	72-71	143
Rich Beem	72-71	143
Tim Petrovic	73-71	144
Troy Matteson	71-73	144
Justin Bolli	73-71	144
Stephen Ames	69-75	144
D.J. Trahan	71-73	144
Brian Davis	74-70	144
Rocco Mediate	72-72	144
Shane Bertsch	71-73	144
Ryuji Imada	71-73	144
Vaughn Taylor	69-75	144
Aaron Baddeley	73-71	144
Nick Flanagan	69-75	144
Kenneth Ferrie	72-72	144
Nathan Green	73-72	145
Patrick Sheehan	74-71	145
Kenny Perry	74-71	145
Mark Wilson	74-71	145
Matt Kuchar	73-72	145
Ken Duke	73-72	145
Roland Thatcher	74-71	145
Pat Perez	72-73	145
Charles Warren	74-71	145
Garrett Willis	74-71	145
Carl Pettersson	72-73	145
Angel Cabrera	71-74	145
Zach Johnson	69-76	145
Adam Scott	72-73	145
Shaun Micheel	76-69	145
Brett Wetterich	73-72	145
Joe Ogilvie	73-72	145
Kevin Na	73-72	145
Jesper Parnevik	71-74	145
Kevin Stadler	75-70	145
Parker McLachlin	73-72	145
Michael Letzig	75-70	145

By The Associated Press

Colts star Harrison interviewed about Philly shooting

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Indianapolis Colts star receiver Marvin Harrison was interviewed by police about a shooting near his North Philadelphia car wash this week.

Lt. Frank Vanore said the investigation of Tuesday’s shooting was continuing. Harrison has not been arrested or charged.

“He was interviewed,” Vanore said Friday. “Why he was interviewed, that is all part of the investigation. No one is a suspect.”

Vanore told WCAU-TV the shooting occurred near 25th and Thompson streets, near a car wash owned by Harrison and about a half-mile from a bar also owned by the All-Pro receiver.

Earlier, radio station WIP, citing unidentified sources, reported the alleged shooting victim argued with Harrison at Playmakers bar. The victim left and headed to his car, Harrison followed and gunfire broke out, the station reported. The alleged victim was shot in the hand and did not identify the shooter, according to the radio station.

Varone also said a child was hit in the eyes by broken glass, but was treated and released from a hospital.

Harrison, a prep football star at Philadelphia’s Roman Catholic High, has owned Playmakers since July 2004, according to state records.

Harrison’s agent, Tom Condon, denied the player was involved in the shooting.

“I’ve spoken with Marvin and I’ve spoken with his attorney, and they say the reports are erroneous,” Condon told ESPN. “Marvin was not involved in

any shooting, and he is not the subject of this investigation.”

It was business as usual Friday night at the bar, located in the middle of the block in a neighborhood of rowhouses. Through two large picture windows, a handful of patrons could be seen sitting at the bar, and others were playing pool amid framed pro football jerseys on the walls.

A man working the door at Playmakers refused to comment on the media reports involving Harrison and would not allow a reporter to enter.

NMASA

From Page 28

Tennis Tournament 13-and-under crown with a hard-earned 5-7, 6-1, 7-5 win.

Miller will be the CNMI’s top-ranked player heading into the International Tennis Federation-North Pacific Qualifying Event from June 16 to 20 in Guam.

NMA’s Rangamar earned the female student honors after a dominating performance in last month’s preliminary trials

in the 4th Annual McDonald’s All-Schools Track and Field Championship.

The 13-year-old multi-event athlete is coming of age and proved this when she competed against other athletes who are in the high school division. She set national age group records in the 200m run, javelin, and discus throw as well as finished in the Top 3 of three more events.

She clocked in 30.96 seconds in the 200m run, and threw distances of 27.48m and 22m in the javelin and discus throw.

Aside from breaking age group records, Rangamar also topped the 400m run with a time of 1:12.23, placed second in long jump with a jump of 3.75m, then cleared the bar in high jump with a height of 1.25m for another second place finish.

Other nominees for last month’s sports plums were NMA’s Jessie Brel, Jericho Cruz, and Jacque Wonenberg, NMITA’s Amy Arenovski, NMSF’s Carol Lynn Pierce, Kaito Yanai, and Fumika Umeha, and NMIFA’s Joe Miller.

THE EYEBALL

From Page 28

Roger Clemens—you failed the eye exam. Again. At least in his case the ladies were ladies, and not ladyboys.

Enter Brazilian soccer superstar Ronaldo. He should have used the Eyeball Test in the most direct way: see

if those hookers had Adam’s apples before taking them to his room. When he found out they were transvestites he quit, saying “no mas.” The deal was supposed to cost \$600. The shemales wanted \$30K to keep their mouths shut and video unseen by the masses.

Imagine (please do) his shock and dismay when he got below the waist visual

proof that those weren’t women. Looks like he should have paid the extorters what they wanted and call it cheap insurance. He will lose a multi-million dollar contract with Nike and he lost his gorgeous girlfriend too. No wonder he went into seclusion at his mother’s house.

Don’t ever get caught on the wrong end of the Eyeball Test.

SIXERS

From Page 28

under division while G-Rollers I battle Kontenders in the 16-and-under class.

First Game

San Antonio Sixers 64 – Ada 23, Benavente 12, Agtarap 9, Pepito 9, Salem 4, Echon 3, Ano 2, Feria 2.

Kontenders 54 – Ogunmoro 17, Domel 12, Taisacan 11, Dilalay 6, Cheriey 4, Ngirngei 4.

Scoring by halves: 27-31, 64-54.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game

The Week in Sports



JON PEREZ

CNMI's Joe Wang Miller, right, steals the ball away from Guam's Scott Dominic Leon Guerrero in their 2nd Marianas Cup football game last week at the Civic Center Field inside the Susupe Sports Complex.



1. JON PEREZ

CNMI's Zoe Jewell, right, and Simone Nichole Wilter of Guam chase the ball in their 2nd Marianas Cup football game last April 26 at the Civic Center Field inside the Oleai Sports Complex.



JON PEREZ

CNMI captain Emily Gries, left, prepares to kick the ball away as Victoria Jadine Paulino Shimizu defends in their 2nd Marianas Cup football game last April 26 at the Civic Center Field inside the Oleai Sports Complex.



JON PEREZ

East Asian Football Federation technical study officer Ichiro Fujita, left, hands over a specially crafted plaque from the Japan Football Association to Northern Marianas Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan in last April 26's opening of the NMIFA office at the TSL building in Garapan.

Price Costco's Keoni Chariton pump-fakes Ol'Aces' Elias Rangamar, partly hidden, in their game in the open division of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ



Football banners CNMI sports

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association dominated sports headlines this past week after the women's and men's nationals hosted the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup against Guam and opened its new headquarters on Saipan.

The CNMI Women's National Football Team stood its ground against Guam holding its southern neighbor to a scoreless draw last April 26 at the Oleai field inside the Oleai Sports Complex. The scoreless draw was a far improvement from the humiliating 0-7 thrashing they suffered from Guam last year.

The CNMI Men's National Team, meanwhile, dropped a 2-3 loss to the visiting Guam Men's National Team held the following day, April 27.

The islands' football governing body then opened its new home on the third floor of the TSL Building in Garapan with officials from the East Asian Football Federation, Guam Football Association, and government, business, and sports chiefs joining NMIFA officers in the office blessing. The event following the women's match two Saturdays ago.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, meanwhile, had a successful campaign in the 2008 Guam Short Course Championships held last April 26 at the Hagatna Pool in Guam.

The club's eight young swimmers took home a total of 19 medals from the swim meet led by 8-year-old Kaito Yanai, who bagged five medals—four gold and one silver—en route to finishing third place overall in his division.

Also part of the team were Kaisei Toda, Takumi Sugie,

Ritsuki Umeda, Daisuke Fital, Kosei Toda, Ryosei Toda, and Fumika Umeda.

Rezne Wong went to Guam with the junior swimmers and won two of four events he competed in during the 2008 GSF All Island Invitational Swim Meet.

The Marianas High School student finished first in the 200m individual medley with a time of 2:17.46 and also topped the 100m backstroke after touching the tile in 1:08.38.

Sports last week also saw the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open tee off at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort with Joung Hoon Park besting a tough field in the Championship Flight.

Park tamed the west course of the Kagman golf facility shooting a three-over-par 75, to enjoy a two-shot lead over perennial title contender Jeff Taylor and Dan Singh, who battled it out for second place in a scorecard playoff.

Ji Hoon Heo remained the CNMI's top ranked junior netter as he once again ruled the 2008 Spectrum Electric Inc.-Marianas Medical Center Junior Tennis Championships held over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Veteran runner Ronald Villafria and bubbly triathlete Miek Carey, for their part, topped the annual Club Elan 5K Fun Run in record-breaking fashion last April 26 at American Memorial Park.

Local skateboarding enthusiasts also celebrated last Monday as they witnessed the start of construction of Saipan's first skatepark.

The past week also saw the continuation of games in the SBA Open 8-Ball League, 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League, Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League, and the Saipan Little League Baseball Association.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rezne Wong, back, and six of the eight-team junior swimmers that competed in last April 26's 2008 Guam Short Course Championships in the Hagatna Pool pose at Guam's Won Pot International Airport. Wong took part in the 2008 GSF All Island Invitational Swim Meet.

Ol'Aces' Jericho Cruz tries to score against the Price Costco defense in their game in the open division of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

Leina Kim watches the direction of her tee shot in hole No. 11 in last April 26's NMC Foundation Open golf tournament at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

JON PEREZ





Hawks beat Celtics again in Atlanta force Game 7
The Atlanta Hawks just won't let go of their first trip to the postseason in nine years. **25**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Football banners CNMI sports

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association hogged sports headlines this past week after the women's and men's nationals hosted the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup against Guam and opened its new headquarters on Saipan. **27**



28 SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMASA spreads out monthly honors

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association spread the wealth Thursday night when it awarded Athletes of the Month honors to four athletes from different sports.

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation's Rezne Wong and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Becca Newman were named the Male and Female Athletes of the Month, while Christian Miller of the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and Lia Rangamar of the Northern Marianas Athletics earned the Male and Female Student Athletes of the Month.

Wong, who is a member of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, competed in the 2008 GSF All Island Invitational Swim Meet last April 26 at the Hagatna Pool in Guam.

The Marianas High School student finished first in the 200m individual medley with a time of 2:17.46 and also topped the 100m backstroke after touching



Wong



Newman



Miller



Rangamar



the tile in 1:08.38. He competed in the open division. His time in the 200m IM was just a second and change off the CNMI age group record of 2:16.56 set in 2003 by Dean Palacios. Wong's 100m back-

stroke, meanwhile, was just tenths of a second off Juan Camacho's record-setting pace of 1:07.03 he recorded in 2006.

Wong also finished second in the 50m butterfly and 50m free-style with times of 29.18, which is just .17 off the 29.01 record of Seung Jin Lee in 2001, and 26.18 almost comparable to the 25.68 set by the immortal John Sakovich way back in 1987.

Newman, meanwhile, helped the unranked CNMI Women's National Football team force Guam to a surprising scoreless draw in last weekend's 2nd Annual Marianas Cup football match held at the Civic Center Field inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

Newman, playing as goalkeeper, put up a defensive wall at the CNMI goal against a

Guam team that is ranked 75th in the world. Her impressive stint earned her the tournament most valuable player honors, which were voted on by members of both teams.

She had a total of 17 saves including a number of key stops in the two overtime periods that could have allowed Guam to escape with the win. This was also Newman's sec-

ond time as a member of the CNMI national team.

Aside from being a member of the Women's Nationals, Newman also serves as a Women's Football Committee member, treasurer of the Paire Football Club, Under-8 coach, and captain of her Women's Football League team.

Miller, for his part, earned the CNMI top ranking in the boys' 13-and-under division after winning the Spectrum Electric-Marianas Medical Center CNMI Junior Championships in both the singles and doubles events.

The singles and doubles titles in the junior championships were also Miller's fourth crown in April. He won the Under-13 title in the junior championships after a 6-3, 6-1 win against Nathan Nutting then teamed up with Daniel Camacho to score a 6-4, 6-0 triumph against brothers Jake and Aaron Lee in the doubles event in last week's finals.

Early last month, Miller avenged his Coconut Classic loss to Rafael Jones to claim the Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade

See NMASA on Page 26

Sixers trounce Kontenders in Under-16

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The San Antonio Sixers scored a 64-54 win over Kontenders in the 16-and-under division of the Northern Youth Basketball Association 16-and-under League last Wednesday at the Garapan basketball court.

Joseph Ada scored 12 of his game-high 23 points in the sec-

ond half to help the Sixers score the come-from-behind win.

Ian Benavente backed up Ada with 12 markers, while Aaron Agtarap and Novo Pepito combined for 18 more.

Benavente also had 11 rebounds while Niko Salem only scored four points but had four steals.

Trevor Ogunmoro finished with 17 points and seven rebounds to pace Kontenders, which led by as much as eight points before the Sixers' second half rally.

Mailau Domel added 12 points and nine rebounds while

Jester Taisacan ended up with 11 markers, three rebounds, three assists, and a steal.

In the second game, Ichtaro Faisao scored 12 points and had a season high 11 assists as G-Rollers squeezed out a 39-36 triumph over G-Stars.

Faisao also had six rebounds and two assists with Lawrence Deleon Guerrero adding 11 points, 11 rebounds, two assists, and four steals.

S.J. Hosin also had a double-double performance with 11 points and 11 rebounds to go with his two steals. John Norita only

scored four points but grabbed season-high 14 rebounds.

Only two players scored for G-Stars with Dino Palacios having an all-around game with 25 points, 14 rebounds, and seven steals, while Eddie Manalili chipped in nine markers, grabbed 13 rebounds, and had six steals.

The Southern Sonics were playing the Sixers and G-Rollers II in the 14- and 16-and-under divisions Friday. Results were not yet available at press time.

On Monday, the Sixers will face G-Rollers in the 14-and- See SIXERS on Page 26

Mothers to be honored in May 11 walk

The Saipan Walking Association, Inc. will honor mothers during its 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day next Sunday, May 11, along the scenic Saipan Beach Pathway.

According to SAIWAI secretary Mario Espeleta, registration will start at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan at 7am. The event calls for participants to walk southward to the Oleai bus stop and back for the 10-kilometer route, while five-kilometer participants only have to walk to the World War II Japanese Tank and back.

Sixteen members of the Nippon Turtle Club are expected to take part in the walk, according

to SAIWAI vice president Yoichi Matsumura. The club will be led by 86-year-old Jo Izuma, who has been participating in the World Walking Day event the past several years.

Espeleta also invited mothers of all ages to sign up for the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day.

"The event coincides with the Mother's Day so please bring your mothers and treat her to a healthy walk and get them special treats with early registration," he said.

Registration fee with T-shirt is \$8, while registration without T-shirt is \$3.

Named after former first lady Sophia Tenorio, SOPHIA stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure, while World Walking Day was initiated by the International Federation of Popular Sports and is celebrated in the month of May by IVV member countries and direct member clubs around the world.

Last year, the World Walk-



ing Day Walk attracted 102 participants, 20 of which were members of the Nippon Turtle Association.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day. The IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about SAIWAI and its future events, contact Mario at 322-8876, Hiroko at 322-8781, or Bea at 285-1694. (Mark Rabago)

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN

Coldeen is a longtime sports journalist in the CNMI and is the news and sports director of the Flame Tree Network.



The Eyeball Test

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and smells like a duck, it's probably a duck.

That is the basic rule of the Eyeball Test.

No courtroom rules need apply. Your eyeball is the judge, jury and executioner of what is true and what is a baloney sandwich. And you can't be wrong, since they are your eyes and no one can tell you what you see.

Let's take a case study and put it to the Eyeball Test.

Twenty-eight-year-old male married with two children meets 15-year-old girl in karaoke and develops a relationship, albeit not sexual until she was of age. Later he sends her tens of thousands of dollars in cash in Fed Ex boxes. She visits him in his apartment away from his family home. The girl-now-woman does not refute this report. Hmmm. A story like this does not even get past the cornea.

Of course, none of that is illegal unless adultery is against the law in the jurisdiction. Not even newsworthy. Unless you have a pending defamation lawsuit. One can only wonder if the Rocket's lawyer explained all this to him, and if he did (I would assume he did), why the Rocket would pursue this course of action. One would think Roger Dodger has had enough public embarrassment by now.

And then there are new reports of Clemens hooking up with John Daly's ex-wife in SoCal. Where will it end?

Now you understand why Barry Bonds has not filed any suit, knowing his mistress would be a brutal weapon of destruction and humiliation. Oh, the slime fest that would be.

See THE EYEBALL on Page 26